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THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2012

GEM'S postbag swells in wake of mass protest

Cattle market row is town's hottest topic

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE hot topic this week in Cowbridge has been the continuing row over the Vale Council's proposal to use the cattle market site for extra care housing.

In the wake of the huge turnout at the rally against the plan (reported in The GEM last week) we have received a huge post bag on the issue.

The campaigners feel that the best way of keeping the cattle market is to stop the land being designated in the Local Development Plan (LDP) as an area for residential housing.

In particular, after the chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, called for all the candidates in the local elections on May 3 to make their position clear, there has been a rush of responses.

(See page 4 of this week's issue).

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, has written on behalf of all the Conservative candidates, although Coun Ray Thomas of Llandow and Ewenny has broken ranks and declared that he is opposed to the closure of the livestock market.

Alun John singled out the two sitting Cowbridge Conservatives, cabinet members Geoff Cox and Hunter Jarvie, asking them to make their position clear, and they have also responded with a joint letter.

The Labour Party in the Vale has fallen short of promising to keep the livestock market, but has surprised many observers by saying that, if elected, they will scrap the LDP altogether, and go back to square one.

The GEM has also received letters from David Harris, on behalf of the farming community.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Thieves strike at old school site

POLICE in Cowbridge are asking residents to be vigilant, after metal thieves struck at the old Lower School building in Town Mill Road.

The burglary took place between midnight on Thursday, April 12, and 9am on April 19 when the thieves removed a quantity of copper piping and radiators.

Local Policing Inspector Mark Taylor said: "We want to ask our communities to help us clamp down on metal theft, by reporting any suspicious behaviour. This is crucial to helping police detect this type of crime."

Anyone noticing any suspicious behaviour in the area, or who has further information regarding the Lower School metal theft, should contact Cowbridge Police on 101 or call Crimestoppers Wales (anonymously) on 0800 555 111.

GRAND SLAM trophy made the Pendoylan pupils' day!

***Rungs of the ladder**...'but one day, we could be champions, too!'*

ABOVE: The children in classes 4 and 5 at Pendoylan School had a big thrill recently when Welsh national team forwards coach, Robin McBryde, paid a visit to proudly show them the Six Nations rugby trophy won by Wales this year. "It made the children's day!" said spokesman Drew John.

AM joins residents to look at Ystradowen speeding problem

RESIDENTS in Ystradowen are campaigning to make the main road through the village safer – and invited their AM to see the problem first hand.

Local resident Richard Skinner told The GEM: "On Friday morning (April 20) at 7.30am,Vale AM Jane Hutt joined an *ad-hoc* PACT meeting in Ystradowen to see for herself traffic speeding through the village.

"Residents are very concerned at the speed with which some vehicles pass through. This is a problem throughout the length of the village, but particularly critical in the area of the zebra crossing."

He said that children have to use the crossing to catch buses to school, and also use it to go to the park.

He said: "Many vehicles simply do not stop for those waiting to cross and there have been numerous accidents, where those that do stop have been shunted into by those following who are not paying due attention.

"Cars have even been seen to overtake in this section of the village – which has a 30mph speed limit."

PCSO Hilary O'Callaghan was present and checked vehicle speed near the crossing.

Jane Hutt said: "I was very concerned to see the speed of vehicles coming through the village of Ystradowen.

Ms Hutt added: "I have been campaigning for speed safety measures along the A4222 for many years with local people and community councils, and I will be raising my concerns with the Vale Council and the Police."

She said that proposals to reduce and deter speeding were needed, and that action was also needed to improve street lighting.

Recently, the neighbouring village of Aberthin has had some measures designed to reduce speed introduced.

Andrew Loosemore, operational manager – highways and engineering at the Vale Council, said:

"The council works in partnership with the police and other agencies to reduce casualties related to road traffic collisions.

"As part of this initiative, the management of traffic speeds is important.

"The Welsh Government recognises that a three-pronged approach to casualty reduction is necessary, involving enforcement, engineering and education."

He continued: "The police are responsible for enforcement and the council is involved with identifying and introducing engineering solutions and in assisting with road safety education.

"This section of road is 30mph and the council has in place the correct signs to indicate this. Unfortunately, a number of irresponsible motorists choose to ignore the signs and travel in excess of the limit.

"It is noted that a PCSO was on site and viewed speeding motorists who, we trust, were duly cautioned.

"The council undertook speed surveys in Ystradowen in April 2010.

"The results indicated that a number of vehicles were travelling at speeds higher than the Association of Chief Police Officer's prosecution threshold."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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Praise for council officer's prompt action on sewage

IN your edition dated April 12, you published an article about the drainage problem that was causing sewage to cover the pavement along the Pontypridd and Salisbury Road, in Barry.

I was requested by Mrs Wakefield to visit her and witness the actual amount of sewage. It was a terrible sight, apart from the stench.

I contacted Miles Punter, head of visible services, Andrew Loosemoor, operational manager. and Alan Bosley, senior engineer to inspect the site.

Within a matter of hours, the area was washed, cleaned and disinfected.

On behalf of the residents, I would like to thank them for their quick action.

Coun Emlyn Williams, Barry

First World War and Uncle Sam

THE interesting letter from Dr Hicks headed 'The facts about the US troops in Barry' (The GEM, April 19) refers to me at length and a conversation Dr Hicks and I had after his recent lecture in All Saints Church, Barry. Clearly, his recollection differs widely from mine.

What is beyond dispute, however, is that the American Navy made Barry their first port of call as they entered the First World War, even if the US Army didn't (*see page 370: 'Barry: The Centenary Book; the town that had had come of age*.')

As in the Second World War, this occasionally led to trouble on the streets of Barry; particularly around the notorious Gueret Street, Travis Street and Thompson Street area.

'Dough Boys', the US soldiers might have been, the French were called 'poilus' – which most French soldiers did not care for, and instead coined the nickname 'Les bonhommes.'

The American build-up in France was painfully slow, as the United States required months to mobilise and her manpower and resources were 3,000 miles away from the Western Front.

By January 1, 1918, only one American division had entered the line.

Not only were the bulk of the Americans unready for action; it was also the set purpose of their commander, General John Joseph Pershing, to form them into a separate army group as befitted the stature of the United States.

With this in mind, he viewed apprehensively any suggestion of his men entering the vortex of battle by detachments.

In the meantime, the severely weakened British and French forces had to fight it out by themselves.

Eventually, on June 1, 1918, a US machine-gun battalion took part in defending Chateau Thierry; and on June 6, the US 2nd Division counter attacked at Belleau Woods.

These interventions, following the capture of Cautigny on the Somme on May 28, indicated that a new force had at last entered the field and the German High Command realised that, at last, it had lost the race against time.

Six months later, the Great War "to end all wars" (how wrong was that?) finally came to an end.

Christopher Short, Barry.

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'Seeing is believing at Colcot Sports Centre'

LAST week, Mr Dave Knevett of the Vale Council emphasised that the Colcot Sports Centre was not under threat and that contrary to what some people believed, it was in line for improvements.

He also said banners featuring the message 'Save Colcot Sports Centre' should not have been put up on council property and the perpetrators were not known.

Mr John Hardman, from Barry, wrote the following lto the GEM in response.

AS one of the 'perpetrators', I have been requested by the Vale of Glamorgan League and Referees' Society to reply to the comments by Mr Knevett.

The local MP, Alun Cairns, last year advised everyone to register with the Queen Elizabeth Trust, our parks, playing fields and green spaces to save them in perpetuity.

The Vale Council has not considered the sports centre complex, though requested to do so by sports centre users, regardless of the fact that it is the headquarters of the Barry and Vale Football (96 teams) and used by thousands.

The recent LDP fails to mention the centre and grounds. Since November 2011, officers of the authority have not consulted the league and referees, the main stake-holders at the centre.

At a rather bizarre meeting, we were bluntly told that the Barry Regneration Fund had no money for this project. This was our only hope because the council have not offered finance for ten years.

That the building needs some work is an understatement because since 1963, when it was opened, very little has been spent on it, particularly in the last decade.

There are rotting main hall floorboards, part of the roof is falling in, and the heating system breaks down. Health and safety issues abound.

Whatever your political inclinations, the council has – whatever they say to the contrary – a 'hidden agenda'. The idea is strengthened when current all-party election propaganda rarely mentions Vale sport priorities in their manifestos.

Regarding the banners – the first on Port Road West was situated on private land, with the owner's permission.

Banner number two was placed on the dividing fence of the owner of the adjoining house and the sports centre, and was quickly removed to avoid contact with council property.

I'm not a political animal, but the difference between the politicians is non-existent. If people are concerned about the dilapidated facilities they can go to the sports centre – see and believe.

John Hardman, Barry

Event raised £300 for Haiti needy

IN last week's edition of The GEM (April 19), you informed readers about the charity night held on April 21 at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry.

The night proved to be another resounding success for the campaign, raising £300 for the Cholera Appeal for Haiti.

There is a cholera epidemic there, and to date more than 7,000 people have fallen victim to the disease.

The cash raised will purchase water filtration units (£22.50 each) via Compassion, a charity that I work for as an advocate.

We aim to supply all the families of children that we sponsor in Haiti with a unit.

Chris Short, who regularly writes to The GEM has pointed out that each unit is often used by more than one family and it was inspiring to read this.

The artists, The Shamones and Them Dead Beats gave us all a great night and charged no fee.

Andy Johnson, lead singer of The Shamones, worked hard, promoting the night.

Jane Hutt AM has happily agreed to be honorary patron of this campaign.

Many thanks to everyone who turned up and enjoyed the evening.

G Knight, Barry.

What happened to the Vale survey?

WHAT has happened with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's bi-annual satisfaction survey, which is regularly used to promote the council?

We know from a previous letter to The GEM that the survey took place around Christmas time and the results are usually published March/April.

Is it possible that satisfaction levels are lower than the previous survey two years ago, when we were told of 95 per cent satisfaction with highway maintenance and a 96 per cent overall satisfaction with the council?

Jonathan Osborne, Barry.

FoE and the LDP

FoE agrees with critics of the LDP – it's a charter for housing developers with no proposals for associated transport infrastructure.

Retail development and transport chaos such as Culverhouse Cross could be repeated at Weycock Cross and other locations, like the housing sprawl in Rhoose with no town centre.

Proposing a rail spur to the airport is an empty gesture, until our railway is electrified, while feasible stations at Boverton and Gileston are ignored.

The second big omission is of any protection for our rural environment. The 1999 UDP inquiry considered the case for a green belt, argued primarily by Friends of the Earth and CPRW.

The Inspector agreed and said a green belt should cover the eastern Vale and north Barry, as far west as Five Mile Lane.

The council was unable to dispute this argument, but still voted down this proposal.

It's symptomatic that the Planning Officer this time doesn't argue it, but just suppresses the whole idea.

Nevertheless, FoE again put in for a green belt and see this as a way to defeat the huge housing developments.

Another argument to defeat them is that Cardiff's housing demand is best met on a regional basis, with new building in Valley communities that want rejuvenation and which are served by the valley lines scheduled for improvement and potentially for electrification.

FoE calls on aspiring election candidates to be confident enough to speak out not just against their local housing allocations, but for rejecting the basis of the LDP.

They can see rejecting it as 'unsound', as Cardiff's first version was judged.

Transportation and green belt are two key issues on which soundness hinges.

A third is the lack of a plan for municipal waste facilities, as waste planning law prescribes.

Keith Stockdale
Barry & Vale FoE Co-ordinator

Housebuilding: *the incentives*

THE Vale has one of the largest nett outflow of commuters to work places in Wales, and in Cowbridge more than 75 per cent of workers travel to work, with many of these travelling outside the Vale.

If south-east Wales as a whole was considered for additional housing, instead of the various council areas, would a sustainability assessment put so many houses in rural areas away from amenities, public transport and employment or would more houses be allocated to Cardiff?

The Vale has a finite income coming from government grants and council tax. More houses mean more council tax income, in addition to the one off section 106 payments from the developers.

It is cheaper, therefore, to add additional houses to existing communities as additional services provision etc will be cheaper than a brand new community and that appears to be the premise for the scattering of additional houses to various communities throughout the Vale.

The sustainability assessment will support this approach because some amenities are already present in these communities. However, in Cowbridge, additional housing has been built over the last 30 years with very little increase in services or amenities.

All of the schools are full, the sewage works is at capacity and public transport and roads are worse than they were 30 years ago. I suspect there is a similar story throughout the Vale in the communities affected by the LDP. In summary,

I am not sure the individual unitary authorities are sustainable financially – but that is another story

Mike Carney, Cowbridge

'RIDICULOUS CLOSING TIMES'

THE consequence of problems within the Cardiff and Vale NHS trust have been more than evident at Barry Hospital for a long time: yet nothing is being done for the well-used minor injuries unit.

It seems like years have passed since Barry Hospital has had a fully functional service, the most recent reason for this issue is operational pressure, staff sickness and maternity leave, therefore the minor injuries unit has closed at 2pm. This problem also existed at the peak times last summer, while children were on holidays – an absolute disgrace!

It has resulted in Barry folk having to travel to Cardiff because of this ridiculous closing time – a daunting trip for pensioners, frustrating for residents, and expensive for most people in these hard times.

The situation has gone on far too long for the problems to be 'temporary' – and the 50,000 plus Barry people, and our neighbouring communities, deserve a fully functioning hospital.

Jeffrey Heathfield, Barry.

If you have a view on what is going on in your area, contact ***gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk***

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 3)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur	10.03	8.7	22.14	8.7
27 Fri	10.36	8.3	22.54	8.3
28 Sat	11.22	8.0	23.44	7.9
29 Sun			12.21	7.7
30 Mon	00.44	7.8	13.32	7.6
01 Tues	02.05	7.7	14.52	7.7
02 Wed	03.21	8.2	15.59	8.3
03 Thur	04.26	8.9	17.01	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: ***gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk • gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk*** **• Tel 01446 774484**
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COWBRIDGE PUB WINS CAMRA AWARD AGAIN!

ABOVE: James Fletcher and barmaids Beverley Brown (centre) and Sue Nicholl with their CAMRA award certificate.

A COWBRIDGE pub is celebrating once again after winning a top award for the fourth time in eight years.

The beer-loving organisation, CAMRA, visited the Vale of Glamorgan Inn last Saturday to present the manager, James Fletcher, with the award for 'pub of the year in Bridgend and the Vale'.

Think of a typical CAMRA-approved pub and you can safely rule out exotic cocktails, designer furniture and loud music – and you won't find any of these at the Vale of Glamorgan.

James says the pub is a 'talking pub' and says that the banter between patrons, mostly from Cowbridge, provides all the atmosphere needed.

He said; "It is a proper local pub and has always prospered by serving fine beer, together with good home-cooked lunches."

He has been with the pub for three years, first working under Alastair Serjeant, and then taking over as manager earlier this year after Alastair retired.

He said: "We have now won this award four years out of the last eight, which is as good as you can do, because a winner is not eligible the following year!"

The pub is a totally free house, with five real ales at any one time, four of them permanent (Butty Bach, Bishop's Finger, Wye Valley HPA and HB).

The HB is a link with the distant past, as the pub used to be a Hancock's pub, before the Cardiff brewer was swallowed up in a series of mergers.

The fifth beer rotates between guest ales, many from Wales, including the Vale of Glamorgan Brewery in Barry, Bull Mastiff from Penarth, and Otley from Pontypridd, and these last as long as the barrell lasts.

Two to three days is the average, but the record is three hours!

James acknowledges that he is carrying on a long-established tradition. This is his first pub of the year award, while the previous three were under Alastair's stewardship.

He added: "We find people from all walks of life come to the Vale of Glamorgan Inn, because they like the atmosphere, and we won't be making any changes to that!"

Another birthday for Meyrick (102)

ABOVE: Doesn't time fly sometimes? It seems only last year that The GEM was writing about local man Meyrick O'Connor's 100th birthday! Now, Meyrick has celebrated his 102nd and, as usual, he was to be found at his reserved table in the Bear Hotel for his daily pint or two. No matter what day of the week it is, Meyrick always has friends in Cowbridge keen to wish him well. **(PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK).**

Fashion show

A FASHION show is being staged to raise funds for Pendoylan Church-in-Wales Primary School, in the Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, on Thursday, May 10, at 7pm.

Hosted by the John Lewis department store, both adults and children's fashions will be on show. Pupils will be on the catwalk, modelling the children's clothes.

For tickets, telephone Amanda Baker on 07796 172544.

U3A's lecture

ON April 11, Cowbridge U3A had an interesting talk from David Crompton, the chief engineer on the building of The Cardiff Barrage.

It was technical but informative and our thanks go to him.

On May 9, Terry Ewington will be talking about the National Coastwatch. at 2pm in the Cowbridge Rugby Club. **TB**

BRIDGE RESULTS

THE latest results from the Vale Bridge Club are: Monday April 16 (23 pairs, club night): First – Ray Smith and Gwynne Maddox, 63.09 per cent; Second – Mary Moore and Diana Jones, 62.19 per cent; Third – Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, 57.81 per cent; Fourth – Sue Norris and Su Summerhayes, 57.54 per cent; Fifth – Margaret Bancroft and Barbara Easterbrook, 56.80 per cent; Sixth – Anne Hughes and John Edwards, 54.77 per cent.

Final result, annual club pairs competition: First – Mike Best and Kevin Maddox; Second – Sue Norris and Su Summerhayes; Third – John Evans and Steve Burgoyne.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (Llanbleddian) – Tuesday April 17: (16 pairs, club night): Joint first – Marian East and Rita Williams, and Dot Isaacs and Diana Lewis, 57.47 per cent; Joint third – Irene and Richard Daniels, and Mearle Owen and Debbie Rosevear, 57.14 per cent; Fifth – Joan Bird and Luba Ashworth, 56.49 per cent; Sixth – Pat and Brian Swain, 54.22 per cent.

The winners of the Friday afternoon event this week were Cath and Ron Bevan.

The next meeting will be Friday May 4 at 2pm. All welcome.

Earlier results

THERE was no meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club on April 9, due to the Bank Holiday, and the AGM

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (Llanbleddian), Tuesday April 10, club night with 13 pairs: First – Sheena Sergeant and Dennis Smith, 66 per cent; Second – Marian East and Rita Williams, 60 per cent; Third – Pam Higgs and Brenda Grove, 55.91 per cent; Joint fourth – Barbara and Colin Easterbrook and Luba Asworth and Joan Bird, 55 per cent; Sixth – Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear, 53 per cent. ***BS***

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

100 Club

WINNERS in the St Mary Hill Church 100 Club spring draw were: Mr T Harry, Mrs Vera Jones, Mr G Watts Jones, Mrs D Lewis and Mr C Jones. The next draw will take place in June.

Good news!

WORK has begun on the promised car parking facility for Llangan School. Workmen have been busy cutting down trees in readiness for the work to progress.

Local artist to lead art session

ON April 26, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome local artist Leslie Dearn, who has exhibited throughout south Wales and specialises in seascapes and people, from figure, life and nude drawing to party people and dancers.

She is also a freelance arts coordinator delivering creative workshops, life drawing classes, drawing courses, art talks and organising arts events.

The evening will include demonstrations of line drawing, followed by a practical session.

The society meets at the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm) and for a small fee visitors are welcome. For further details see www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com.

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Who's saying what about the cattle market?
*Read all about it – **here in The GEM!***

'The campaign goes on' – Alun John

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

In his letter, he disagrees with Coun Gordon Kemp over what was decided when the Leader met the farmers to accept a petition against the market closure.

Dr Chris Pearce, on behalf of the Cowbridge Residents' Group, has also written in support of the campaign.

All of these views are on this page.

Speaking to The GEM, Alun John said that the campaign would continue after the local elections, irrespective of which party was in power.

He said that the campaign had received support from a number of individual candidates, including Gwyn John and Eric Hacker from Llantwit, Plaid's Nic Hodges and Val Hartery from Barry and Dinas Powys respectively, and Richard Bertin (formerly Labour but now an independent).

He said that the Labour party's stance in promising to scrap the LDP held out some hope, but he would have to reserve judgement.

He said that, in the light of last week's letter from Couns Cox and Jarvie, which promised that there would be no nett loss of parking spaces if the extra care housing went ahead, he would want to see firm details.

He said: "There is a lot of spin coming from the Vale Council when talking about the parking situation. One minute they talk about the livestock market, and then they switch to the cattle market.

"I can't help feeling that this is to confuse the situation."

He emphasised: "We agree with the residents' group's calculation of 170 lost parking spaces, and we would want to see a very clear explanation of how the council will keep them."

He added: "I still feel that the council wants to sell this land to help fill a massive hole in its budget

"The campaign will continue, and we are currently investigating finding the funds to challenge this in the courts – all the way to the High Court if necessary."

'Scrap the LDP' says Labour

IN A shock move just one week before the local elections, the Labour Party in the Vale has pledged to scrap the Local Development Plan (LDP) and start all over again.

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the Labour Group in the Vale said: "A Labour-run Vale Council will go back to the drawing board and begin the process again. The current process is flawed and unsustainable.

"No consideration has been taken of the current infrastructure, and the original premise of only looking for development in Barry, Penarth, Dinas Powys and Wenvoe is not realistic or justifiable."

A swift response came from **Coun Jeff James** on behalf of the Conservatives, who said: "I am extremely disappointed that Labour have chosen this cynical ploy which is clearly an attempt to boost their flagging campaign.

"During the six week consultation, many people took the time to submit their representations and views and now Neil Moore intends to toss their views aside.

"The whole point of the consultation is to seek the views of residents and every one of their submitted views will be considered, evaluated and taken into account.

"Only once this full assessment has been carried out will the final plan be published, in approximately 12 months time, and another and final six-week consultation exercise will be undertaken then.

"This is blatant electioneering of the worst kind and I trust the people of the Vale will see right through it."

Coun Moore told The GEM: "We will have proper consultation, making the process more transparent and easier for members of the public to respond.

"People need to have the opportunity of making responses using everyday language and not the overcomplicated on-line process that the Tories required everyone to use."

Coun Moore added that he felt that one important issue was that there was too much housing allocated for the eastern Vale.

A number of Labour candidates agreed.

Penarth Labour candidate **Lis Burnet**t said, "The whole process was flawed and gave no thought to transport or traffic issues in Penarth."

Barry candidate **Claire Curtis** also commented, "The development at Weycock Cross and Wenvoe will put an unacceptable burden on Port Road and cannot be approved."

Cowbridge candidate **Camilla Beaven**, however, was concerned about plans in her area, saying:"Although the LDP is concentrated on the east of the Vale, there are considerable concerns in Cowbridge and the rural areas, such as building on the Cowbridge Market site."

Nic Hodges, the Plaid Leader on the Vale Council, told The GEM that it was "farcical" that Labour had revealed this policy at such a late stage.

He said that Plaid would consider the situation very carefully if Labour were elected, adding that he was "amazed" at the turn of events.

PHILIP IRWIN

Ystradowen speeding

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Loosemore added: "This information was forwarded to the police with a request that they undertook appropriate enforcement action.

"Should this concern with regards to inappropriate speed remain, as appears to be the case following the recent police monitoring exercise, then it is for the police to undertake further enforcement as the council previously requested.

"Issuing some speeding tickets to these motorists would surely have an impact on their driving attitude."

FUTURE OF THE CATTLE MARKET – Conservative Leader responds

AFTER the recent rally aimed at keeping Cowbridge cattle market, chamber of trade chairman, Alun John, challenged all the candidates in the May council elections to say where they stood.

Coun Gordon Kemp, the Conservative leader, has issued the following response:

WE feel it would help to clarify the position of the council's Conservative administration.

The market operators previously held a market lease for 21 years, which expired in March last year.

Prior to expiry, various meetings and discussions took place with the market operators, who said they were exploring the feasibility of alternative sites for their market operation.

Indeed, one possible alternative was to relocate the market to a site in Ruthin, which they had wanted to do some years ago when they were keen to see a Waitrose store built on the present site.

As time was running out, the council agreed a short term extension to their occupation of the present site, to afford them as much help as possible in making their alternative arrangements.

The council has never threatened to "close" the market; the market lease expired, and the council has been more than accommodating in helping the operators with their plans.

Clearly, it would not be appropriate for any councillors or candidates to give any categorical assurances as to the future operation of the livestock market whilst legally and commercially sensitive – not to mention confidential – discussions with the market operators are on-going.

The council's cabinet is acutely aware of the pressing need to provide extra care housing facilities for the elderly in the western Vale.

In light of this, a decision was made in principle to allocate this site for such use, if and when in the future the market ceased to operate there.

As part of that decision, and to reflect particularly the concerns of local members, it was confirmed that the part of the site should also be used for public parking, so there would be no net loss of parking facilities on the overall market site.

Subsequent meetings have been held by the Leader with both the market operators and representatives of the wider farming community, which are still continuing.

As things stand at present, the Leader is still awaiting a response.

In view of the above, you will understand why it would be inappropriate to pre-judge the outcome of those negotiations by making any binding commitment as to the future use of the site at this stage.

Coun Gordon Kemp, Barry.

Councillors say where they stand

AS many of your readers will be aware, there has been considerable publicity recently about the future of the livestock market site in Cowbridge.

As candidates, we have been put under pressure to commit ourselves to the continuation of the market on its present site.

We wish to make clear that we fully appreciate and sympathise with the views of those promoting the campaign, but as has already been stated by us, we cannot accede to this pressure.

As the council's cabinet members responsible for legal services and visible services, we have been kept closely informed of discussions and indeed, legal proceedings, that have taken place between the council and the market operators.

It would be improper and indeed possibly illegal for us to disclose the nature of matters which are confidential and ongoing. We therefore cannot make a public commitment to any particular course of action at this stage, as it would be prejudicial to those ongoing negotiations.

It is a matter of record that neither Labour nor Plaid groups on the Council voted against the draft Local Development Plan going out for consultation in its present form – whatever view their candidates may choose to adopt this campaign.

The plan is still a draft and will be reviewed in the light of all representations received.

We stand on our record as representatives of the Cowbridge ward over the past four years; a newly-built comprehensive school at a cost of £21 million, the refurbishment of the local library, the re-surfacing and repaving of the High Street and other roads in need of attention, the £3.7m spent on the Cowbridge bypass to give it a new lease of life, the introduction of one of the top recycling systems of any Welsh authority, an annual reduction in senior management salaries of over half a million pounds, to mention but a few.

We have also consistently helped many constituents with their problems.

The perennial problem of car parking in Cowbridge will be one of our main priorities if we are re-elected to serve this community on May 3..

Please remember what we have achieved for our community in the past – you can rely on us to do our best for the community in the future.

Geoffrey Cox,
Hunter Jarvie.

'OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS THE LIVESTOCK MARKET'

THE statement (The GEM, April 19) by Councillors Geoff Cox and Hunter Jarvie contains a number of misleading points that I would like to clarify as one of the farming representatives that met with the Leader of the Vale Council on November 10, 2011.

In particular:

● We have no recollection of agreeing to any specific feedback except to organise a further meeting in the New Year (2012).

● The leader raised with us the existence of a proposed alternative site for the market at St Mary Hill, but stated that there would be no funding available from the council to develop the site.

The farming representatives made it very clear at the meeting that they preferred the livestock market to remain in its present location. This alternative site was not put forward to the council by "*one of the present market operators*", but by a private individual.

● The cabinet of the council made the decision to sell the market site in June 2011, based on the Rural Housing Market Assessment undertaken by Fordham Research in 2010, which made no reference to the need for extra housing care for the elderly in Cowbridge.

In addition, there was no consultation with the farming community, the farming unions, Cowbridge Town Council, or the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade before this decision was made.

● The minute of the cabinet meeting makes reference to the development of the sites adjacent to the town for car parking. However, most of this area is already used for car parking and certainly would not in any way achieve 'no nett loss of car parking spaces' as stated by Couns Geoff Cox and Hunter Jarvie.

We, however, are still waiting for the council to specifically acknowledge that they have received a petition signed by more than 1,190 people, registering their opposition to the closure of the market and that the existence of this petition has been raised to the full Vale Council.

Finally, we welcome the news that the market operators have secured a license to operate the market for a further 12 months and hope that within this period, the newly-elected council will positively respond to the strong feeling voiced at the recent demonstration, and rescind the decision to develop the market site for residential use.

David Harris,
Farming Community spokesman.

'Promise needs clarification'

THE last-minute statement from councillors Geoff Cox and Hunter Jarvie on the cattle market issue (letter to The GEM, April 19) is misleading and does nothing to resolve the concerns expressed by the local community in the large public demonstration; the three unacknowledged petitions (which total more than 4,000 signatures); and numerous letters and LDP representations from local community groups, opposing the proposed sale and allocation of the cattle market site for housing in the draft LDP.

This LDP allocation stems from the resolution (without community consultation) by the Vale Council cabinet (including our two councillors) on September 20, 2006, deeming the cattle market site "surplus to the Council's requirements and to dispose of the site" (reconfirmed at the June 11, 2011 cabinet).

This residents' group wrote to the Leader of the council (with copies to our councillors) on July 16, 2011, challenging the "surplus to requirements" phrase and requesting that the requirements of Cowbridge residents, ratepayers, farmers and visitors are also taken into consideration in making decisions on the fate of council-owned property in the town.

We have received no reply to this letter, apart from an acknowledgement of its receipt.

The letter from our councillors says the council leader is "awaiting feedback" from community representatives, but it is clearly the reverse in our case.

Their letter also claims that "*if we are elected to a Conservative administration, there will be no net loss of public car parking spaces*" which is in contrast to the LDP, which makes provision under Policy MG 2(11) for a unified public car park along the town walls guided by a development brief that only adds an area for 25-30 extra spaces to the existing parking there.

Neither the councillors' letter nor the LDP give any indication of where the balance of more than 170 lost spaces would be found.

LDP Policy MG 15 allocates greenfield land at St Mary Hill for a replacement cattle market, which nobody in the community wants, and is financially undeliverable.

We already have a functioning cattle market and car parking site in the right place, satisfying the community needs, and do not want planners or councillors to change its function or location.

Chris Pearce,
Cowbridge and Llanblethian Residents Group.

'He thought if children understood Remembrance it would see them through life in a better way'

Royal British Legion stalwart in the Vale, John Hobbs, dies

by TIM CHAPMAN

ONE of the great stalwarts of the Royal British Legion in the Vale, John Hobbs, has passed away.

John (79) a former member of the RAF, died at his home in Hywel Crescent, Barry, on Thursday, April 12 – the house where he was born.

Members of the Royal British Legion said they would remember him as a man with an abiding passion for the organisation and what it stood for.

The GEM last spoke to John, who served with the County of Glamorgan Squadron at Llandow, on Remembrance Sunday last November when he spoke of how encouraged he had been by the large numbers of people who had attended Barry Cenotaph to pay their respects.

At the time, he said: "It was an excellent turnout, the best I've known for a very long time.

"This year is the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion and it is important not only to pay our respects to those who died, but the living who have survived conflicts.

"I was very encouraged by the number of young children who attended the Cenotaph, and by the numbers from local schools that were at the cemetery on Armistice Day."

This week, the president of the Barry branch, Keith Harris, paid the following tribute: "John was really committed to the Legion. He was the chairman for nine years and before that the secretary.

"He helped to arrange the parades, monthly meetings and wreath-laying ceremonies.

"He also helped Gareth Howe with the 'Barry Remembers' appeal which helped to update the Hall of Remembrance at the Memorial Hall and fund repair work to the Cenotaph.

"He was very knowledgeable about the Forces, and I think his work with the Royal British Legion was what kept him going in the final months of his life."

JOHN HOBBS.

Former president of the Barry branch, Tim O'Sullivan told The GEM: "He was a very proud Barry boy. He worked for the town council and also instructed at Barry College in IT.

"He had a terrific interest in getting young people involved in 'Remembrance'. If there was an event, he used to say: 'How can we involve the youth in this?'

"It was thanks to him that Armistice Day, November 11 at Barry Cemetery was so well attended by local schools. It is a now a growing event.

"He thought that if children understood 'Remembrance' and their debt of gratitude, it would see them through life in a better way.

"Every anniversary – all the way back to the Battle of Trafalgar – was something John wanted to mark with a wreath-laying ceremony. He'd make sure some of the Legion boys would come along too.

"He was the person who came up with the name for the appeal to get funds for the Cenotaph and Hall of Remembrance in Barry.

"We were at a meeting with Gareth Howe and wondering how we were going to raise the necessary funds.

"We were trying to think of a suitable name for the appeal and John suddenly said: 'Barry Remembers!'

"He was a lovely man. A trojan for the Royal British Legion."

John's funeral will be held at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, on Monday, April 30 at 10.15am, followed by a service at the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium on Port Road at 12 noon.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan
telephone (01656) 880418

AT the recent Mothers' Union meeting in the church hall, the guest speaker was Ken Rise, who gave an interesting talk on the Dunraven family and the castle, with photographs and first-hand information enjoyed by all.

DON'T forget the sponsored walk in aid of Children in Distress which will be taking place on Monday, May 7 at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major. For information and sponsor forms, contact Sheila at the vicarage, St Brides Major (01656 880108).

GREEN waste is now being collected on alternate weeks from the black bag refuse. Green waste bags can be obtained from Llantwit Library and Cowbridge at £1 each.

DOGS will be banned from Southerndown Beach from May 1 to September 30, but dogs are welcomed on other beaches on the Vale. For more information and a fact sheet, contact visible services on 02920 673000.

Failure to clean up after your dog is an offence and you could be prosecuted. Bags can be placed in any bin, making sure they are securely tied.

A PRIZE bingo evening will take place at the church hall, St Brides Major, this Friday, April 27, at 6.30pm.

Admission £1, refreshments will be available. It is in aid of the Three Villages Diamond Jubilee Carnival on June 16.

A very pleasant morning was spent on April 17 in All Saints, Southerdown, when the 'Knit and Natter' group met to give a donation to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

An interesting talk was given, telling how these wonderful dogs offer a life-changing level of independence, confidence and companionship to deaf people, as they are trained to alert recipients to important everyday sounds and danger signals.

Hearing Dogs began in 1979, and in February 1982 (at Crufts dog show) the scheme was launched nationally. More information can be obtained from Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, The Grange, Wycombe Road, Saunderton, Princess Risborough, Buckinghamshire, HP27 9NS.

THE local produce market took place, with a tea and chat on Saturday, at the church hall, St Brides Major.

The next market will be on Saturday, May 10. The tea and chat takes place every Saturday (10am-12 noon). All are welcome. The library is also open on this day.

IT is sad to report the death of Mrs Betty Loveluck, late of Lon-y-Eglwys, St Brides Major. Mrs Loveluck, aged 92, had been a much-loved teacher in St Brides Major C/W Primary School.

OGMORE Retired Residents' Association met after the Easter recess in All Saints, Southerndown, when the subject for the afternoon was 'members' memories of employment before retirement '– a most interesting afternoon with remarkable memoirs.

Call to three villages:

'Please come to the Jubilee street parade'

ORGANISERS are urging local people and organisations to "get involved" and enter a float in the Jubilee street parade in St Bride's Major on June 16 to celebrate the Queen's 60 years on the throne.

Event chief Eileen Mathews, from the Three Villages Carnival Committee, said: "We want this to be a wonderful day of fun. Carnivals are a magical community event and we would love as many people as possible to get involved.

"Whether you're an individual, a business, an organisation, a club or a team, please get creative and enter a float. With your help we can make this a day to remember."

The day will have events for the whole family including music, stalls, bouncy castles, children's rides, pony rides, displays, refreshments and much more.

Eileen added: "We want to celebrate the Jubilee with style, with a traditional carnival atmosphere. There will be a prize for the best float, a carnival queen and a grand village fair for the whole family.

"If you would like to enter a float, have a seller's stall or simply volunteer to help please get in touch."

Contact Eileen Mathews 01656 880235, Meryl James 01656 880681 or John Houston 01656 880262.

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'TRACTOR BOYS' RAISE FUNDS FOR ED EVANS FOUNDATION *and society*

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 07791 228684.
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

ON Sunday, April 22 a combined tractor run raised funds for The Ed Evans Foundation and Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society.

The run organised by the Tractor Boys of Aberthin on behalf of the two of the institutions was well supported, despite the poor weather conditions, with 51 tractors turning up at Frank Sutton's yard in Ruthin.

Tractors ranged from Hughie Lewis's £150 grey Fergie, dating from 1950 with 26hp on tap, to a brand new £70,000 180hp monster tractor. This made a fantastic spectacle and clearly emphasised the increase in tractor size over the decades.

With the drivers of the vintage and classic tractors preparing themselves and getting well wrapped up in wet weather gear to fend off the horrendous weather conditions, the run got underway at 10.30am with routemaster Jeff Webb in control.

The morning run took in Llanharry, Llansannor, Penllyn and Sigingstone. The afternoon saw the convoy of tractors pass through Llandow village, Colwinston and Troes before heading back to Frank Sutton's yard for a very wet 4pm finish,

A total of £1250 was raised in what proved to be a hugely successful and fun day.

Many thanks to all those who took part, and also to Llandow circuit cafe. **MH**

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg 4–11 Awst 2012
National Eisteddfod Vale of Glamorgan 4–11 August 2012

100 diwrnod i fynd
100 days to go

3 Awst / August
Cyngerdd Agoriadol / Opening Concert
Only Men Aloud, Only Boys Aloud, Only Kids Aloud y Fro / Only Vale Kids Aloud

4 Awst / August
Beirdd Cymru – Karl Jenkins Premiere
Prydeinig / UK premiere
Karl Jenkins, Dennis O'Neill, Rebecca Evans, Côr yr Eisteddfod/Eisteddfod Choir

6 Awst / August
Degawdau Dafydd Iwan / Dafydd Iwan's Decades
Dafydd Iwan, Aj Log, Heather Jones, Côr Plant Heol-y-March ac / and Edward Marus Jones

7 Awst / August
Gala Gomedi / Comedy Gala

9 Awst / August
Noson yng nghwmni Caryl
An evening with Caryl

eisteddfod.org.uk
gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk
0845 4090 800

Sully bride for Llantwit man

ABOVE: Michelle Aynge, who is from Sully, and Barri Waldron-Kelly, from Llantwit Major.

THE wedding took place at Oxwich Bay on April 11, of Miss Michelle Aynge, daughter of Chris and Christine Aynge from Sully, and Mr Barri Waldron-Kelly, son of John and Jackie Waldron-Kelly from Llantwit Major,

The ceremony was attended by close friends and family at the Oxwich Bay Hotel, followed by a cocktail reception and evening party in the marquee overlooking Oxwich Bay.

The bride, who was given away by her father, Chris, wore a white dress with a lace and beaded layer, and carried a pink and white bouquet.

The bridesmaid was Miss Clare Norris and her son Dylan was pageboy.

The couple would like to say a special thanks to both families and friends for making their special day memorable.

Michelle and Barri would also like to say thanks to friends and customers of the Sully Constitutional Club and restaurant for their cards and gifts.

HOW THE WELSH ASSEMBLY IS PUTTING THE EQUALITY AGENDA INTO EFFECT...

THIS week, I made a statement to the Assembly on our Strategic Equality Action Plan, which I launched on April 2, explaining how the Welsh Government is taking forward the promotion of equalities and laying out how we will deliver the 'Specific Equality Duties' under the provisions of the Equality Act 2010.

Promoting equality of opportunity has been a cornerstone of Welsh Government policy and programmes since its inception. The Government of Wales Acts have placed this as a central principle – that there should be equality of opportunity for all people in Wales.

This has been strengthened further by the Equality Act 2010 which represents the culmination of years of debate and work to improve British equality law in all its dimensions and spheres.

Under this Act public authorities are required to bring in Specific Equality Duties and we were the first Government in Britain to bring these fully into force to help public authorities better perform their general equality duty..

We are also the only Government that has a statutory obligation to carry out Equality Impact Assessments on all our policies and practices.

"Wales has some of the most vulnerable people in society, who are completely dependent on welfare payments to maintain a quality of life and basic living needs"

We also took on board the requirement to engage and consult in drawing up equality objectives which are published in our plan. In England, the UK Government has limited their implementation of the Equality Act compared to Wales.

Their equality duties only require the publication of sufficient information to demonstrate compliance with the general equality duty.

In Scotland, the draft regulations have only just been laid before the Scottish Parliament and will come into force at the end of May.

So Wales is ahead in introducing robust specific duties, as a result of extensive consultation and has produced the first full Equality Plan for delivery.

We believe it is vital to implement the Equality Act 2010 in full, in line with our commitments to embed equalities into policy, planning and action and linking closely to other commitments by the Welsh Government such as the 'Tackling Poverty Action Plan' which engages all Ministers in action to tackle poverty and inequality in Wales.

With the evidence we gained from research and consultation we have drawn up six equality objectives. The first objective concerns the provision of advice, information and advocacy services to help people understand their rights and entitlements.

Providing good quality advice is a major priority at a time of major change with the scale of welfare reform introduced by the UK Government already having a major impact on peoples' lives as benefits are cut back and curtailed.

Analysis by the Institute of Fiscal Studies suggests on average, households in Wales can expect to lose 4.1 per cent of their income as a result of tax and benefits changes (£1,110 per year). This compares with a UK average loss of 3.8 per cent.

Wales has some of the most vulnerable people in society, who are completely dependent on welfare payments to maintain a quality of life and basic living needs.

So support for our advice, information and advocacy services are vital to assist people and to help those who could face hardship, poverty and inequalities as a result of these changes and are now a key equality objective for the Welsh Government,

The second equality objective relates to tackling the causes of unequal pay as a result of gender, ethnicity and disability and the impact that has on work and life chances.

As a Government, we have made clear our objection to the introduction of so called 'regional pay' by the UK Government.

It was good to gain cross-party support for this position in the Senedd before the Easter recess.

A great deal was said about the adverse impact this would have on women in the public sector where we have been seeking to implement the Equal Pay Act and overcome long standing inequalities which are reflected in the public and private sectors.

The third equality objective relates to our work to reduce the number of young people not in education, training and employment.

The fourth objective focuses on our work to reduce the incidence of violence against women, domestic abuse, hate crime, bullying, 'honour based violence' and elder abuse.

It was good to see the Women's Institutes joining forces with Mumsnet in writing to Ken Clarke, the Justice Secretary, about their concerns that the plans to reform legal aid will hurt victims of domestic violence.

The Bill has returned to the Commons this week and this powerful alliance should have an influence as the cut back of legal aid could put the clock back in our work to protect the victims of domestic abuse.

The fifth objective is to tackle barriers and support disabled people so that they can live independently and exercise choice in their daily lives.

We are developing a framework for action on independent living for disabled people and it was good to join the relaunch of the Disability Index for disabled children and young people at the HUB last week in Barry with Vale People First and and the Children and Young Peoples' Partnership. We must pull together across Government in Wales to promote this.

Finally, we are committed to improving the involvement of under-represented groups in public appointments where public bodies have considerable power and influence over policy and delivery of services in Wales.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission will regulate the duties under the Equality Act and will be monitoring the implementation of the duties across all public bodies n Wales.

This is a national equalities agenda which, arguably, is needed more than ever because of the profound changes that are taking place to the social and financial circumstances of Welsh citizens – as a result of changes to social legislation, which came into being following the pioneering Beveridge Report, in the last century.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

Charity golf

A CHARITY golf day at the Grove Golf Club, near Porthcawl next week, has a few spaces for last-minute entries.

It aims to raise cash for the Porthcawl and Pyle Boxing Club, and is being organised by Mike Davies, in memory of the late Colin Humphreys.

"Colin was a friend of mine and I know that, as a former Welsh boxing champion, he was keen to see the gym at the club refurbished, "he said.

The golf day is on Friday, May 4, with tee times between 9am and 2,30pm.

The cost for a team of four is £150, with a buffet included.

For more information, contact Mike Davies on 01656 786793.

TORCH EVENT

PEOPLE taking part in the Olympic torch relay in Barry on May 26, are to be invited to an event hosted by the town council.

A spokeswoman said: "The Town Council would like to hold an event following the relay, hosted by the Mayor, to honour all those who are taking part in the torch relay and would be grateful if any of the runners interested would contact the Mr Cliff Lewis, on 01446 738663, to register their interest in attending an event."

Barry Town Council undertook its annual grants giving exercise on March 19. The grant giving exercise is carried under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and empowers Town and Community Council's to award grants to local organisations.

£15,000 grants to groups

THE 42 organisations awarded a grant by Barry Town Council recently were:

372 (Barry) Squadron ATC, Amy Britten Singers, Atal y Fro, Barrivale Bridge Club, Barrivale Community Aid, Barry Ambulance First Responder Scheme, Barry and District Chrysanthemum Society, Barry Arts Centre, Barry Athletic Club, Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club, Barry Choral Society, Barry Huskies Basketball Club, Barry Ladies Choir, Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry No.6 OAP Club, Barry Sea Cadet Corps, Barry Veteran Bowling Association, Baruc Art Group, Brecon Court Residents Group, Cadoxton Imps AFC, Cadoxton Moors Community Association, Cadoxton Nursery School, Colcot Sports Amateur Boxing Club, Compass Residents Group, Flat Holm Society, Gibbonsdown and Treharne Community Association, Gibbonsdown Children's Centre Ltd, Jenner Park 'Cool Cats' After School Club, National Coastwatch Institution, Parents and Toddler Group, The Rainbow Women's Group, West Walk Tenants Association, Whitmore Bay Lifesaving Club, Workers Educations Association, WRVS Colcot Darby and Joan Club, Vale of Glamorgan Artists, Vale Plus, Colcot Residents Association, Friends and Neighbours, Kids Cancer Charity, Rhoose Lifeguards, Art 4 U.

The total amount awarded was £15,162.

OBITUARY: *FRANK WORDSWORTH JAMESON*

Much-travelled Frank called Llancarfan home

FRANK JAMESON was one of Llancarfan's best loved and respected citizens, and it was a great loss to the community when he died on March 29 this year.

Frank was a gentleman in every way and was much loved, not only by his family but by his many friends, which was most evident by the large number of both who were at his funeral in Saint Cadoc's church on April 10.

Frank was born in Dublin on August 29, 1926, and still retained his Irish passport.

He was born at the home of his grandparents, but somewhat unusually, spent the first six months of his life on a houseboat on the River Nile in Egypt.

In 1930, he moved to Standwell House in Old Oxted, Surrey and aged four went to preparatory school there. In 1940, he went to Uppingham School in Rutland and then in 1945 he went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, a fact of which he was always immensely proud, never losing his ties with his old college.

In 1952, he joined the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (which in those days still did develop and advise) and on June 24, 1954, married Joyce, after which their married life took them to Northwich, Cheshire, Barnstable, north Devon, Brecon, and then Cardiff.

At that time, Frank and Joyce came to Llancarfan, where they have stayed, making many friends along the way.

Frank was a great family man and with four children, Sarah, Ruth, Rob and Richard, had plenty to do.

Luckily, being a man of the outdoors, he and the family spent a great deal of time exploring nature and took many trips to varying and exciting places, something which he carried on with his eight grandchildren.

Frank was a wonderful father and grandfather, with a most remarkable variety of personal traits – for while being a very private man, he was also a great raconteur and hugely enjoyed entertaining his friends, something which I, for one, will sorely miss.

He loved history and was a keen student of military history especially that of the First and Second World Wars.

His own father fought through both and was a much decorated hero, something of which Frank was immensely proud.

SAM SMITH

BARGAIN HUNTERS OUT IN FORCE AT ROTARY CLUB'S CAR BOOT SALE

ABOVE:
Cowbridge Rotary Club's first car boor sale of the year was blessed with good weather, and turned out to be a very busy day, with plenty of locals 'de-cluttering' after a spring clean!
(PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK).

Jubilee events in Cowbridge

ALONG with other towns and villages in the Vale, a street party is being planned in Cowbridge to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Other activities planned include music, song, dance and drama performances by local groups, guided talks of the Old Hall, Town Walls and Physic Gardens, stalls for local producers/businesses/community groups, a Fairtrade cafe in Holy Cross church, a community cafe and local information base in the Old Hall, Maypole dancing and exhibitions of local art and craft.

A highlight of the event on June 5 will be an alternative 'king and queen' at the street tea party in Church Street (outside Holy Cross) at 3pm. It is hoped that businesses will decorate their frontages with bunting and local textile groups will provide bunting for Church Street.

The Duke of Wellington have made their function room available and plan to operate a beer tent in their car park.

SORELY MISSED BY MANY FRIENDS

IT was with great sadness that I heard of the passing of David Rusco, of Llantwit Major.

I knew David all my life and always found him to be cheerful, helpful and one of the best digger drivers I have ever met.

David prepared the ground in Margam Park, where I worked several years ago, for the first stage of the train track, the work was difficult due to ground conditions and great changes in levels but it seemed to make no difference to him – he still managed to do an exellent job.

In fact, the park manager insisted on having David to prepare the ground for phase two, which was much longer and more difficult.

He always seemed to have a dry sense of humour and produced many funny quips as the work progressed.

I knew the gentleman that David prepared the seat for (as mentioned in last week's GEM obituary) and was told by him how grateful he was to have a seat made in exactly the place where he wanted it, so he could sit and watch the wildlife on the lake.

Unfortunately, the old gent passed away a short time later, but had several pleasant hours enjoying the view.

Many of the staff of Margam Park got to know and like David, and often asked me how he was, since they knew we both lived in Llantwit.

They will be as sad as I was to hear of his passing, and he will be sorely missed by many.
Steve George

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

No progress on ambulance response times

Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

ONE of the first surgery cases I dealt with in May 2010 was one that concerned poor ambulance response times in the Vale.

At the time, the Welsh Government Minister responsible for Health offered warm words, but nothing was really done to rectify the matter.

All too regularly, I hear of ambulance delays and have reported several serious incidents involving Vale residents to the Wales Ambulance Services and Health Minister.

The latest figures published in March show that ambulance response time targets have been missed again. Despite a largely mild winter, the all-Wales average response times have slipped, compared to the same period last year.

These figures are abysmal, and an indictment of just how bad the situation facing the Welsh NHS has become.

Hardworking paramedics need to be backed up by fresh investment in response vehicles and smoother transition arrangements at hospitals to prevent ambulances being blocked up, waiting to transfer patients.

I fear that such investment may be difficult due to cuts to the Welsh NHS, sadly the only part of the UK reducing health spend.

Another report published last month, this time by the Public Services Ombudsman, exemplified the complaints that I've received from local residents in the western Vale.

The complaints were based on the length of time it took for an ambulance to attend following the 999 calls made to the service.

The report found that the Welsh Ambulance Services failed to deploy ambulance resources to patients in a reasonable time frame, and that their deployment had indeed been overlooked.

So, questions need to be asked at the highest level of the Welsh Government – why are we seeing a sustained trend of ambulances failing to respond promptly to emergency calls?

The Health and Social Care Bill has completed its tortuous journey through the parliamentary process. Some believe that the reforms are controversial. I am a strong supporter of the Bill for a number of reasons; I believe it will bring about fresh innovation and new approaches to healthcare that have the opportunity to drive efficiency and value for money in what is the UK's most treasured public service.

Ambulance provision needs reforming in Wales. We cannot stand still.

Here, however, we won't benefit from such changes. The opposition's criticisms throughout the extended parliamentary scrutiny failed to offer an alternative, leaving their model in Wales as an example of their policy outcomes: cuts in NHS spending, longer waiting times, slower response times for ambulances in Wales, poor mortality rates, higher infection levels and the non-availability of cancer drugs for some patients.

This situation also needs to be taken in the context of a commitment by the UK Government to grow its health spend in real terms over this parliamentary period, whereas the Welsh Government plans to cut health spend by 8.4 per cent in real terms by 2015.

This will see the Welsh NHS cut by more than half a billion pounds in real terms over the next three years.

I worry for the outcome and am determined to see improvements in whichever way they can be achieved.

Climbing challenge for airport fire service staff

NINE members from the Serco Fire Station at Cardiff Airport accepted the challenge of climbing the Three Peaks.

They flew to Glasgow Airport where they picked up transport to travel to Ben Nevis. After three-and-a-half gruelling hours, they finally arrived at the summit of the mountain.

Even with all the preparation that had been done for the trip, it was one of the most physically demanding things any of them had ever done, and they certainly felt it when they arrived back at the base two-and-a-half hours later.

Staff of the Serco Fire Station at Cardiff Airport completed the gruelling challenge for charity.

With extremely aching joints and limbs they then travelled to Carlisle for an overnight stop. Arriving at the hotel at midnight it was time for a quick rest and off again in the morning.

Arriving at Scaffells Pike they started the climb and completed it in four-and-a-half hours, and then took the journey to Snowdon, arriving at Snowdon at seven in the evening with the light against them.

Not wanting to fail the challenge they took the decision to make the descent in the dark.

Against the warden's advice, they proceeded up to the summit of the mountain.

After completing Scaffells Pike earlier on that day it was extremely tough.

With determination, they all made it to the summit. Due to the weather conditions and darkness they didn't arrive at the base until midnight.

With very tired and aching limbs, they then made the journey home.

It is an incredible achievement for them all, and also for Kidney Wales. This challenge was funded by the group and all the sponsorship will be going direct to the charity.

If anyone would like to donate to Kidney Wales please see their website.

Vale CCTV monitoring leads to eight arrests

EIGHT people have been arrested in Barry as a result of CCTV monitoring, including an arrest for alleged possession of an offensive weapon and an arrest concerning possession of drugs.

CCTV operators at the Vale Council contacted the police on 30 occasions during the week ending April 22.

Two people were arrested in Broad Street for alleged criminal damage on April 16 and, on the same day, a person wanted on warrant was arrested at Dunlin Court.

On April 20 in Market Street, one person was arrested following an assault and another arrest concerned a Section 5 Public Order Offence.

A person was arrested involving assault in Broad Street on April 21 and on April 22, an arrest was made on Market Street for alleged possession of drugs. Another arrest on Kingsland Crescent concerned possession of an offensive weapon.

PACT IN THE VALE

- CADOC PACT public meeting at 6pm, on Tuesday, May 8, at Palmerston Community and Learning Centre.
- ILLTYD PACT public meeting, at 7pm, on Wednesday, May 16, at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry.
- RHOOSE Police surgery, on Sunday, April 29, at the Rhoose Police Office, Stewart Road Community Centre at 3pm.
- DINAS POWYS PACT public meeting, on Monday, May 14. in St Mary's Church Hall, at 7pm.
- CORNERSWELL PACT public meeting, on Thursday, May 17, in Penarth Leisure Centre at 7pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing or log onto www.ourbobby.com

LOCAL RUNNER BEATS THE PAIN BARRIER!

LLANBLETHIAN journalist Simon Farrington completed the London Marathon, alongside 37,000 fellow competitors, and in the process raised more than £3,250 for Ty Hafan children's hospice at Sully.

The 55-year-old completed the 26 mile 385 yard-course in four hours 35 minutes, and said it was a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

"The crowds were unbelievable, probably six to 10 deep in Greenwich, around the Cutty Sark, through Canary Wharf and up the Mall. In fact, there wasn't one part of the course where people were not lining the route and they give you a terrific lift.

"I was still going strong across London Bridge – the halfway point – in one hour 49 minutes, and went through 20 miles in just over three hours, but my legs had successfully balloted for strike action with around seven miles to go, and I struggled to drag one foot in front of the other down the Embankment and to the finish.

"Fortunately, family and friends were there to cheer me on and crossing the line was very emotional.

"I would like to say a huge thank you for all the donations and support and remind people that the Justgiving account is still open and can be accessed at *www.justgiving.com/Simon-Farrington.*"

Simon Farrington with his London Marathon medal.

Police probe store break-in

ON Sunday (April 15) a break-in occurred overnight at the Barry branch of Lidl on Cennin Pedr, when the weekend's takings were stolen from a safe.

The store had to be closed for a time on Monday while an investigation ensued, but normal service was resumed by Tuesday.

A South Wales Police spokesperson said: "Police attended the Lidl store in Barry at approx 6am on Monday, April 16, following reports of a burglary overnight at the premises. An investigation is ongoing.

"Anyone who noticed anything suspicious in the area, or who may have further information, is asked to contact Penarth CID on 101."

A spokesperson for Lidl reported: "Unfortunately, we did have to close the Barry store for a short period, due to a break-in. The store opened later the same day and is now trading as usual."

Vale Explorers tackle the Three Peaks Challenge

The group at the top of the Blorenge.

RECENTLY, a group of Vale Explorer Scouts took part in the Abergavenny Three Peaks Challenge, a 35km walk up and down the Blorenge, Sugar Loaf and Skirrid Fawr mountains, which surround the picturesque town of Abergavenny.

This means that walkers have a climb of more than 1,800m, some of which is very steep.

The walk starts out from the centre of Abergavenny and after 2km, the ascent of the Blorenge starts with the path going under the Brecon to Newport canal.

The path continues up through the woods before the steep climb up the face of the mountain reveals itself. This is a steep climb of about 1km straight up the front of the mountain.

There is then the long walk across the Usk valley before the very different climb up the Sugar Loaf Mountain. This is the tallest of the hills and there are a number of false summits that lull you in thinking you are nearly there, only to dash your joy by revealing another climb.

The walk continues down into the next valley for a short well-earned drink at the Crown Inn before the long walk to the northerly end of the Skirrid Fawr.

The top of this mountain is the steepest section, of the day, but it is only a 20-minute climb to the final summit.

All that is left is the 4km walk back into Abergavenny for a well-earned cup of tea, with cake supplied by the organisers, the Cardiff Outdoor Group.

All of the Explorers completed the walk, although there were a number of blisters shared out between the group!

Local law firms come together in merger

THE historic Bear Hotel was the venue when clients and staff of Glamorgan Law gathered to celebrate the official opening of the firm's new Cowbridge offices.

Glamorgan Law built its reputation in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan and in 2010 merged with Beech & Co of Cowbridge.

This month saw a further merger with the established Cowbridge firm of Larby Williams, and Glamorgan Law now dominates the Vale legal scene from its offices at The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge.

The evening's keynote address was delivered by Vale MP Alun Cairns. Welcomed by Peter Davies, senior partner of Glamorgan Law, Mr Cairns said : "The merger of Glamorgan Law and Larby Williams represents a significant investment in Cowbridge and the Vale.

"Complex legal matters now require a high degree of expertise and gone are the days when an individual lawyer can handle a large number of different areas of law.

"The presence of Glamorgan Law in Cowbridge enables the people of the Vale to benefit from top quality legal expertise on their doorstep and represents a very welcome boost to the community".

In response, Adrian Larby, formerly the senior partner of Larby Williams, assured clients of Larby Williams that he and Pamela Haines both remain with Glamorgan Law.

He pointed out that the merger made a greater range of expertise available to Vale clients, adding specialisms such as business law and commercial litigation to traditional areas of strengths such as property and agricultural law, family law, trusts, wills, tax and probate.

He said: "This is great news for us, for the clients of Larby Williams and Glamorgan Law and, indeed for everyone needing legal services in the Vale".

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Did you know you can now follow The Glamorgan GEM on Twitter? You can find us *@gem_news*

Cyril and Cynthia's Diamond 60 years

RIGHT: Cyril and Cynthia Williams, with the first bouquet to arrive.

A VALE couple are celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary today – and for the last 51 years, they have lived in the same house!

Cyril and Cynthia Williams live in Peterston-super-Ely, and all this week they have been welcoming visitors, well-wishers and family.

There has been no shortage of callers, as the couple brought up six children in their modest home in the village, and also have 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Cynthia told The GEM: "We met in 1950. I was walking home with a friend when we stopped briefly to talk to some boys on their bikes.

"When I got home, Cyril was waiting there for me and asked me out."

Cyril lived in Llantrisant and Cynthia near Beddau, and they had a two-year courtship.

However, that period coincided with Cyril doing his National Service, so they saw each other only on the occasional weekend.

They married as soon as Cyril finished his National Service, and he returned to his job with the Electricity Board.

The young couple lived with Cynthia's mother for a few years, and then they found a rather unusual home.

Cynthia explained: "It was the railway cottage and it was where the Bosch factory is now.

"It was completely without gas, water and electricity, and even the water was delivered to us daily on the train.

"We had 10 gallons a day, delivered in two milk churns."

Cyril and Cynthia were rehoused when the Peterston area was flooded in 1960. They were not flooded out, as the house was on raised ground, but the outside toilet was washed away!

Cyril said: "We had a visit from Cardiff Rural District Council and the officers couldn't believe that our house had no services."

The council said they qualified for a house, and it was not long before the young couple – and their three children – moved into their new home in Peterston-super-Ely.

They are still there 51 years later, and brought up three more children. There was, however, a gap between the first four and the last two.

The first four were boys and, after thinking that a girl would never arrive, they struck lucky with number five!

All six children went to primary school in the village. When it came to secondary school, the first four all went to Barry Boys.

However, by the time the next two were 11, the new school at Radyr had opened.

Cyril seemed settled with the Electricity Board, until he had an accident while helping a friend cut branches off a tree. Injuries suffered in a fall meant he had to give up his job.

However, Cyril has a restless nature and took a hobby – woodworking – and became a real craftsman.

Over the years, he has made numerous items that were sold to raise cash for local charities, including Macmillan nurses and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Cynthia said: "Cyril has made wishing wells, bird boxes, see-saws, and trolleys.

"He once gave a see-saw to Llandough Hospital to be sold to raise funds, but they kept it because they found it was therapeutic for the elderly patients!"

He was also passionate about pidgeon racing, and still has the prize-winning certificates from some of his star performers.

There will be no special celebration in the Williams household this week. Cyril and Cynthia are content to welcome friends and family, and reflect on 60 happy years of marriage.

PHILIP IRWIN

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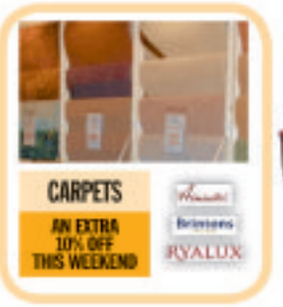

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Out and About with The GEM

Festival fun for fostered children!

BEYOND the Border, Wales' international storytelling festival, has announced that its partnership with Renault Retail Group Cardiff Ltd has been awarded an investment from Arts and Business Cymru, to allow them to offer free festival tickets to children and young people living in foster care in the Vale, to attend with their foster families.

The festival, which is funded by the Welsh Government and Arts Council Wales, as well as the Vale Council, takes place at St Donats Castle, near Llantwit Major from June 29–July 1.

Performers will come from all over the world this year, including a storytelling circus from Switzerland, true life tales of the sinking of the Titanic from America, and stories of strong women in the history and legends of Wales, performed in Welsh and English, to name just a few.

With lots of music and plenty of other activities, from shadow puppet making to street theatre performed on a stage towed by a bicycle, the festival also has an environmental theme, with both tales and workshops looking at sustainability in a fun and friendly way.

This environmental element is central to the partnership with Renault, who will be sponsoring the Renault ZE Big Top – the festival's largest performance space – to promote their electric vehicles to festival attendees.

"This sponsorship allows us to make a local connection to our company's belief that "the automobile should adapt itself to the planet" explained Darren Bowen, of the Renault Retail Group, Cardiff.

Under the current scheme, about 20 chosen children, their foster carers and siblings will benefit from the project, but festival organisers are hoping that will increase.

Businesses interested in finding out more can contact the festival office on 020291 660 501 or email info@beyondtheborder.com.

Rhoose talk

THE Rhoose and District History Society will hear a talk by Aldon Grisdale on 'Myths and Legends of Porthkerry' on Friday, April 27, at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets at the door £1 per adult; 50p per child (under 16 years).

Choral evening

A CHORAL evening will be held at St Donat's Castle on April 27, at 7.30pm, featuring Dowlais Male Voice Choir, Gower College Swansea Ensemble, Daisy Evans (soprano) and Sian Evans (BBC Radio), compere.

For ticket information contact 01446 772333 or Jen on 01656 890235.

Eisteddfod fundraiser

THERE will be a table top sale and coffee morning on Saturday, April 28, in Tabernacle Vestry, King's Square, Barry.

A table is £10. Sellers should arrive at 9am. Telephone 01446 733784 to book.

Table top sale

A TABLE top sale and coffee morning will be held on April 28, at 10am in Tablernacle Vestry, Kings Square, Barry.

A table costs £10, and sellers should arrive at 9am. Proceeds will go towards the National Eisteddfod in the Vale later this year.

Saturday story time

COWBRIDGE Library is running a free storytime on April 28, from 11am-11.30am, for children aged five-nine years old.

For more information, contact the library on 01446 773041.

Charity run

THE Blacksmiths Arms, Llanmaes, is holding its annual five-mile charity fun run on April 28, starting at 3pm.

There will be a barbecue and live music from The Unknowns after the run, with all money going to the Bridgend-based charity 'Healing the Wounds' which supports armed forces veterans and emergency services personnel suffering from PTSD.

Musical splendour

THE Bridgend County Civic Charity Appeals Standing Committee and the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough are organising a charity evening of 'musical splendour' next month.

Appearing are Robyn Lyn, tenor; Llio Evans, soprano; accompanist Sharon Richards; Atlantic College International Choir under musical director Chris Davies; and Ogmore Valley Male Choir under musical director Eira Paskin.

It will be hosted by D Hugh Thomas at the Sony Theatre, Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend, on Saturday, April 28, at 7.30pm.

Tickets £10. The event is supporting the following: Glaze Prostate Charity Wales, including development of robotic prostate surgery at the Princess of Wales hospital, Bridgend; Stroke Association; Bridgend County Stroke Group; Bridgend County Riding for the Disabled, Bridgend College, Pencoed Campus.

Information from M Major (01656 664105) or D John (01656 861594), Civic Offices (01656 643132) and at Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road.

Stamp fair

BARRY Philatelic Society holds its spring fair on Saturday, April 28, at 10am-4.30pm, at the Highlight Community Centre, at the rear of Tesco, Port Road, Barry.

National dealers will be present. Admission is 50p. Refreshments available.

The next fair is on Saturday, November 17.

For more information telephone 01446 741026.

Speak with local officer

NEWTON PCSO Holly Prosser will be holding a coffee morning on April 30 from 10am-11am at Newton Institute, Newton Nottage Road, Porthcawl.

This is a chance to speak with your local officer about issues that concern you in your area.

Society's walk

THIS year's Llancarfan Society May Day walk is a two-mile stroll to the most southerly point in Wales.

Nature has softened and reclaimed this former landscape of limestone quarries, protected from the sea by cliffs with fine views across the Severn.

Wild life should abound. Children and well behaved dogs are welcome. There is a short cut back if the weather is unfortunate.

Meet at the rail car park, serving Rhoose Airport, on May 7, at 10.30am for an 11am start.

Floral society

BARRY Floral Society meets on Tuesday, May 1, when the demonstrator will be Linda Garratt of Abergavenny and the title of her demonstration is 'All that Glisters'.

Meetings are held at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, commencing at 2.15pm. New members are always welcome.

Valeways walks

ON Tuesday, May 1, 'The Garlic Trail to St Lythans' at 1.30pm, starting at the Wenvoe Arms car park.

Flower arrangers meeting

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club meet at 7.30pm, on Wednesday, May 2, in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

Sharon Dower will give a demonstration entitled 'Fruits of the Florist'. A warm welcome awaits you.

Sleepwalk needs more wardens!

POSSIBLY due to a certain Mr John Barrowman coming along to the Millennium Stadium on Friday, May 4 at midnight to spur on the ladies and girls, the Ty Hafan 'Tiaras and Pyjamas Sleep Walk' has seen a significant increase in registrations this year.

This means that the event organisers could do with some extra male marshals to volunteer their services.

Ty Hafan's Craig Ananin commented: "Registrations have been coming in well, especially since we announced that John is on board. But we would also welcome husbands, boyfriends and any male family members or friends if they could spare a few hours to help on the night."

Anyone interested can register as a marshal on the dedicated 'Midnight Sleep Walk' website, www.midnightsleepwalk.co.uk, or by emailing the events team at: events@tyhafan.org, or calling them on 029 20672065.

Mr Ananin added: "I would also suggest that if there are any ladies who have been thinking of taking part in the event they will need to register before April 30 as we won't be able to take any registrations on the evening.

"It's only £10 to register, but if you take along four friends, the five of you will get a discount of £20 on your total group registration fee."

PARK WALK

CANCER Research Wales charity is organising walks on May 5 and 6 (Saturday and Sunday).

There is free entry to the park, but a small fee will be deducted from each donation.

Steve George took early retirement from Margam Country Park after 25 years service as a ranger and seven years as the visitor services manager.

He will be the walk leader and will tell walkers all about the history of the Orangery, Chapter House, castle, Iron Age hillfort, the Vanished House and also the trees in the Organery Aboreteum.

The three species of deer (Fallow, Red and rare Pere David, Margam Park's conservation success story, will also be included).

The walk will be suitable for young families, although the hill or steps will need to be climbed from the Orangery gardens to the castle. Much of the walk is on the flat.

The distance will be approximately one-and-a-half miles each way, with many stops for explanation along the way.

The walk will end at the café in the castle yard, after seeing the deer herd.

The charity walks will go ahead regardless of the weather. Suitable clothing and shoes advisable although not essential.

Shampan winners

THE winners of our recent competition with Shampan for a meal for two were: Collette Lee-Allen, Llantwit Major; Viv Edwards, Barry; Paula Jones, Cowbridge; and Alan Blayney, Bridgend.

Congratulations to you all and keep reading for more great GEM competitions.

Latest Eisteddfod fundraising events

TWO events are being held in Llantwit Major to raise funds for the National Eisteddfod.

This Saturday, April 28 at 7pm, there will be a 'Twmpath' with 'Thingumijigs' in the Llantonian Hall.

Put on your dancing shoes and join caller Ceri Platts and Thingumijigs ceilidh band for an evening of Welsh jigs, reels, polkas, waltzes and more! Adult tickets are £4, children £2, family £10. Bar and raffle tickets from Eleanor 01446 751950.

Also, a table top sale will be held on Sunday, April 29, in Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major.

Sellers 8am-1pm, buyers 9am-1pm, £5 per table.

Contact Ros Lewis 01446 793530.

Jammo returns!

THE Borough Arms, Barry, will welcome back local singer/songwriter Jammo on Friday, April 27.

Entry is free and the performance starts at 10pm, featuring songs from Oasis, The Beatles, Fleetwood Mac and many, many more.

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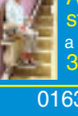

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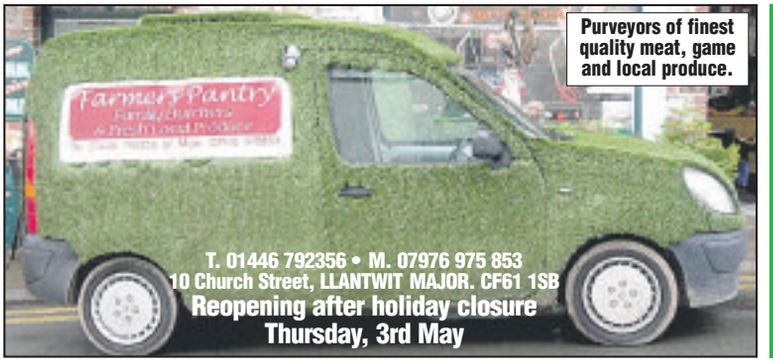

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R	S	B	O	F	J	N	I	N	A	R	Q	N
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W	S	R	F	R	A	N	C	I	S	F	E	O
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23 names to find:

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Normal competition rules apply. *Closing date: May 11th 2012* – **GOOD LUCK!**

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Vale 'twinners' celebrate a very satisfactory year

THE AGM of The Vale of Glamorgan Twinning Association celebrates a very satisfactory year.

Members are now accustomed to flying the flag for the Vale of Glamorgan at events in our twin-towns in Normandy, Belgium and Germany.

Fraternal visits by members to events in Fecamp, Mouscron and Rheinfelden, hosted by their voluntary associations, are developing strong links with ordinary citizens in each of the towns.

Rodney Care, chairman of the Twinning Association, reports: "We always encourage more contact with people of the Vale from our twin towns and we are able to offer a contribution towards the costs of anyone hosting visitors from our twin towns."

Association events of the year included meeting members of the newly-formed voluntary twinning group in Mouscron, visiting the summer arts festival in Fecamp and the street festival in Rheinfelden, hosting the Fecamp Fishermen's choir visit to Barry Waterfront Festival, and entertaining groups from all the towns to our marquee at Cowbridge Food Festival.

The highlight of the year was the Fete de Noel in Fecamp. Each of the twinning associations has a stall at this event selling typical local products to raise funds for their activities.

The Vale of Glamorgan stall has established a reputation for providing Welsh cheeses, Welsh beers, and freshly-made Welsh cakes. The climax of the fair comes on Sunday evening when the stalls are cleared away, the tables laid down the centre of the hall, and all share a meal together.

After supper, each town has the opportunity to perform a "party-piece" to entertain the gathering.

In the coming year, the association has arranged a visit to Fecamp by the Vale of Glamorgan Band for the summer Arts Festival. We are also taking a consignment of 'Perl Las' Welsh blue cheese for the specialist cheese shop in Fecamp, and we will be selling Welsh whisky at the Street Festival in Rheinfelden.

We will welcome visitors from twin-town associations to the National Eisteddfod at Llandow, and to Cowbridge for the Food and Drink Festival **TRS**

Trekking the northern Vale countryside...

WITH a forecast of frequent showers, 12 Vale Ramblers left Colwinston to walk nine miles on some of the lesser known paths of the Vale.

Crossing the A48, they entered the northern Vale and across the fields towards Llangan, noticing the old lead mine chimney, now seeming out-of-place in the rural landscape.

Reaching the church, they picked up the path again northwards to St Mary Hill.

Walking along the road for a while they reached the isolated church of St Mary, Penymynydd, and the footpath south,.then continued on to Treoes.

Now on lower land they were helped through a bog by four very friendly ponies. Soon they were back at the A48 and with warm sun at last, the coats came off for the return to Colwinston.

The Sycamore Tree provided a welcome finish to the journey, and the group thanked them for the use of their car park.

The next walk is on Wednesday evening with a local area, four miles (G1) walk. Meet at parking adjacent to Lamb and Flag Pub, Wick for a 7pm start.

On Sunday, April 29: 10 miles (G2/3) Devil's Pulpit circular. Cowbridge Town Hall Car Park 9am start.

More info at: www.valeofglamorgan-ramblers.co.uk.

Flowers for their 60th!

THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun John Clifford, is pictured (above) during a visit to Mr Thomas Lynch and Mrs Beatrice Lynch at their home in Barry – to present them with a basket of flowers on their 60th wedding anniversary.

AGM highlights Neighbourhood Watch importance

THE important role played by Neighbourhood Watch schemes across the Vale will be highlighted when the organisation holds its annual meeting on Wednesday, May 9.

The meeting will be held in the Civic Offices in Barry at 6.30pm, and any member of Neighbourhood Watch in the Vale is welcome to attend.

Deborah Gibbs, community safety manager, said: "The annual meeting is a fantastic opportunity for people involved in Neighbourhood Watch schemes to discuss the successes of the past year and look forward to the year ahead.

"The Safer Vale partnership encourages Neighbourhood Watch schemes as an effective way of cutting down on crime and the fear of crime in the Vale.

"The meeting gives us an opportunity to meet the people behind the success of these schemes and thank them for their work in helping us make our communities safer."

For more information on the AGM or on Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Vale, contact Sabine Galton on 01446 450200.

Complaints against police are down 10%

COMPLAINTS against South Wales Police fell by more than 10 per cent in the last year, according to a report presented to the South Wales Police Authority.

"The figures, provided to the authority's Quality of Service group, show that the number of allegations dropped from 1,170 in 2010/11 to 1,047 in 2011/12 – a drop of 10.5 per cent," a police spokeswoman said.

"There was also a fall in the number of people who complained, from 642 in 2010/11 to 612 in 2011/12. Over the past four years, there has been an annual drop in complaints cases, from 774 in 2008/09."

Vice-chair of the police authority, and lead member for complaint issues, Mr John Littlechild, said:

"The figures of 1,047 allegations from 612 complainants is particularly pleasing when you put into context the number of the people who come into contact with South Wales Police each year/

"The number of people who complain about our service is a very small proportion."

Volunteering can help you...

THE Vale Volunteering Bureau provides people with the chance to try their hand at different jobs with the view of starting a new career. *Matthew Spill* is one such youngster who experienced the process...

"While I was growing up I developed an interest in drama and media, which led me to do a BA Honours qualification in Theatre and Media.

"Not long after I left university in 2009, I heard about a new radio station, Bro Radio, coming to the Vale, and the Vale Volunteer Bureau were involved in recruiting volunteers.

"I was invited to a recruitment evening. I went along and spoke to the station manager, who offered me training sessions for news reading.

"I jumped at the chance as I thought this was a great opportunity for me to start a career in media.

"This gave me the confidence and skills I needed to go live on air and read the news.

"After a while, I progressed to head of news, and my role involves researching local and sometimes national stories, as well as editing and packaging audio. My role is also to present the weather forecast and be as accurate as possible!

"Some highlights have included attending the live count of the last General Election, and to announce breaking news of the National Eisteddfod coming to the Vale.

"From time to time I have been offered the chance to host my own show, so I am getting experience in that area as well."

For further information on volunteering contact the Vale Volunteer Bureau on 01446 421782, or email: info@vvb.org.uk. Their website: is www.vvb.org.uk.

Drop in centre's gift for pupils

THE Castleland Drop-In Centre Development Trust has sponsored 'fire and safety awareness activity booklets' for Gladstone School, Barry.

The booklets are designed by Security First to help children understand the importance of fire hazards within the home and school. Exty and Dalmo, the two fire fighting buddies in the book, help to get the message across.

Eileen Moore, the drop-in centre manager, said: "I hope the children enjoy completing the activities in the book and that it will help to keep them safe in the future."

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- By helping to secure £9.0 million regeneration money for Barry
- By spending £15 million on improvements to north Penarth
- A new school for Cowbridge - the start of our school investment strategy
- By establishing Welsh medium seed schools in Barry and Llantwit Major
- By carrying out a review of the Council's senior management resulting in an annual saving of £510,000
- Through Creative Rural Communities £6.3 million to support tourism and local business
- By securing the construction of the first hotel to be built in Barry for many years
- By developing Barry Innovation Quarter to provide offices and workshops
- By working hard to secure a planning application to provide a cinema and indoor leisure facilities at Barry Island
- By securing the return of a Driving Test Centre to Barry

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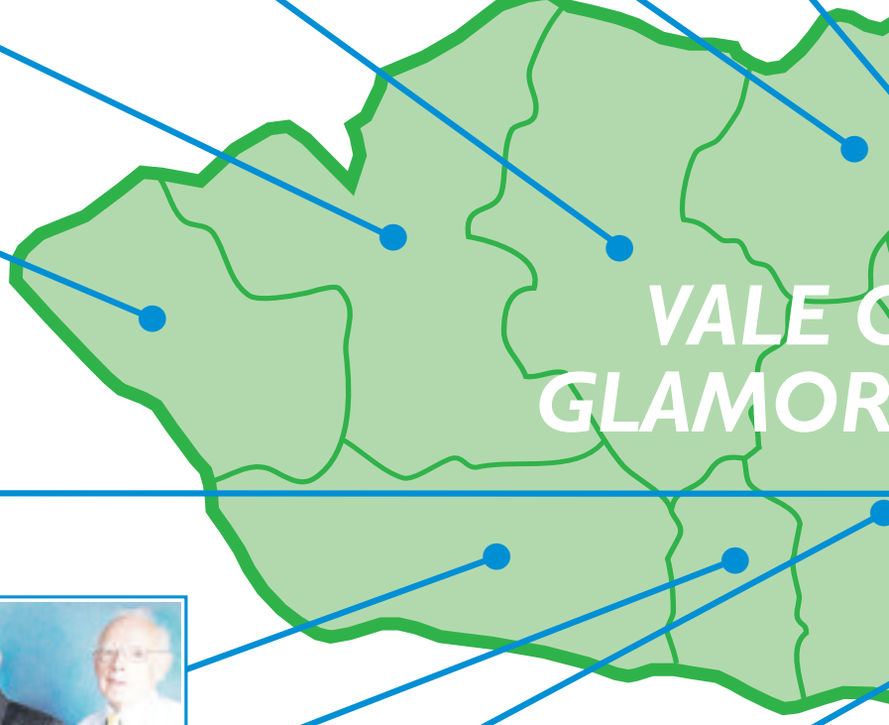

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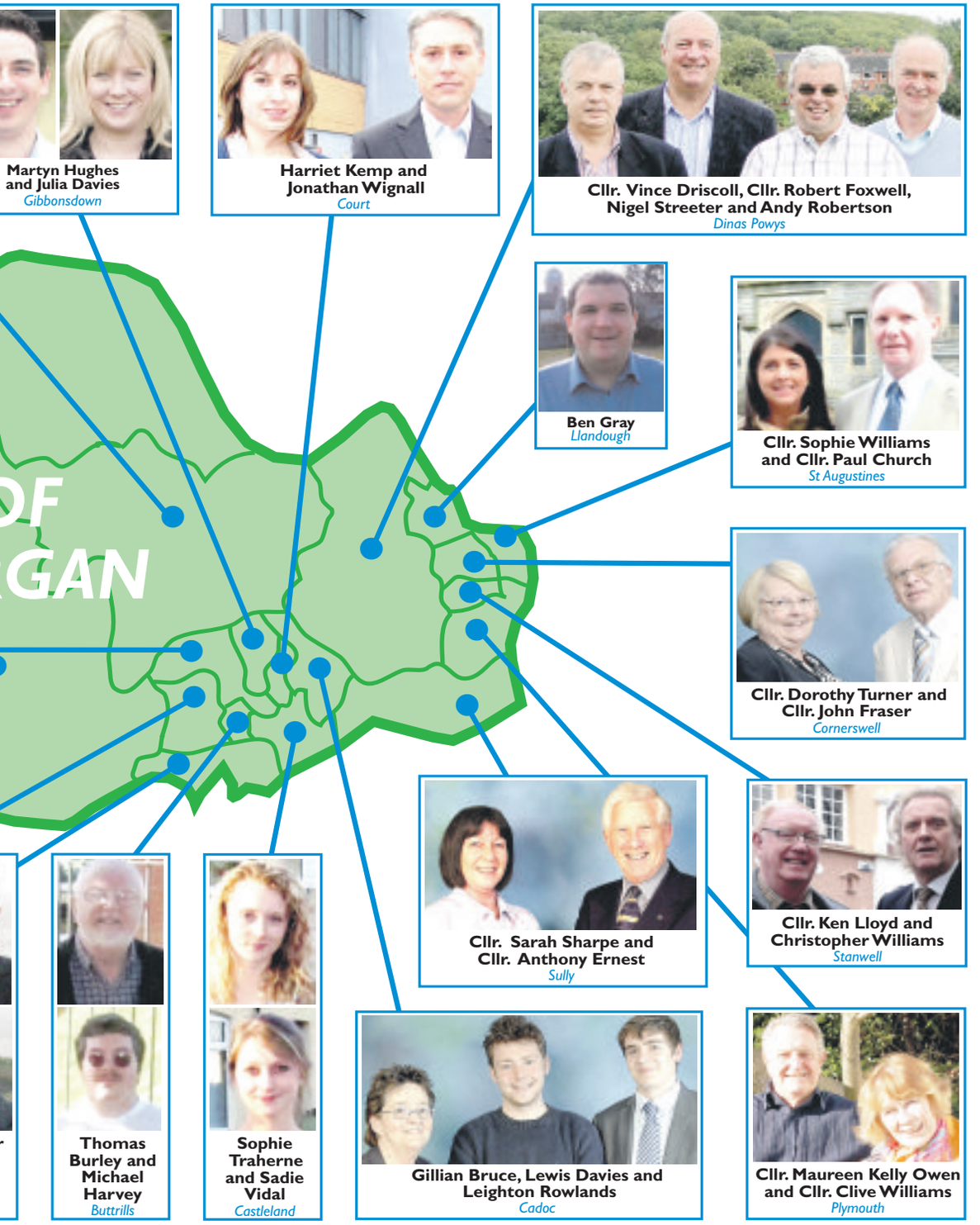

WE WILL DELIVER

- By investing £3 million on upgrading and revamping our leisure centres
- By upgrading our housing stock to achieve Welsh Quality Housing Standard and by continuing to consult with our tenants
- By investing £7.6 million over the next 3 years to carry out essential work on the Vale's highways
- By continuing to consult with you to ensure that your voice is heard on issues which are important to you such as the future use of Cemetery Road
- By increasing and simplifying recycling
- By tackling dog fouling and litter with strong enforcement measures
- By completing the Penarth Learning Community and improving the standard of our school buildings, particularly Llantwit Major Comprehensive
- By developing the V-Pod mobile youth provision
- By modernising library provision and developing community libraries
- By continuing to be open and transparent with you by publishing all expenditure over £500
- By working in partnership with other local authorities to deliver better and more cost effective services for you

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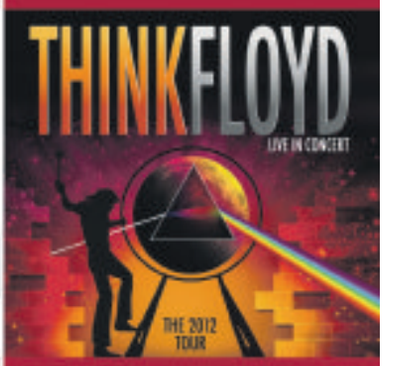

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Cowbridge Charter Trust to push on with town wall renovations after funds granted by council

THE Cowbridge Charter Trust is to push on with plans to further renovate the old town walls surrounding Old Hall Gardens, after the Vale Council provided a grant of £6,693 to help them reach their projected target of £22,310.

The work aims to look at the old walls spread around the town, but primarily those surrounding Old Hall Gardens.

As well as cleaning up the walls by removing invasive plant life such as ivy, there are also plans to create two visitor display boards to describe the work being carried out in the area.

There are also plans for associated landscaping to preserve wildlife and introduce native plants, renovation of the remaining stone boundary walls and a two-year maintenance plan to keep the walls 'in shape'.

Work in the future will include exploring the walls to find and restore the original medieval parts of the structure.

The initial £15,617 came from a 'Pride in our Heritage' grant, and now the Vale Council has made up the shortfall the work can go ahead as soon as it is put in writing to the contractors.

Charter Trust chairman Peter Jones spoke to The GEM to explain the current situation.

He said: "At the moment we have a situation of stone walls and ivy together, which is never a good combination.

"We aim to create free-standing towers of ivy to compensate the loss of cleaning the walls, as well as providing nesting sites and habitat for other local wildlife nearby."

Mr Jones added that the Trust aimed to expand its involvement in Cowbridge and that there were bigger plans afoot to renovate other areas of the town.

Members of the Cowbridge Charter Trust involved with the work – committee member Richard Browning, chair of the gardens committee Linda Osborn, Betty Alden and John Sherwood (committee members) and Charter Trust chairman Peter Jones.

"We want to keep our impetus going, to improve the entire area. Our work will out-flow from this and there are plenty of areas we will look to improve.

"The work will start next month and continue throughout the summer. It's good timing really. You can't work on the stone when it's too cold and icy, nor when the sun in the sky is too hot."

Gardens committee member John Sherwood outlined that sustainability was a top priority of the work.

He told The GEM: "The ivy had to be stripped off, it was bad for the walls. We are going to introduce non-intrusive plants to the walls to replace them.

"We want to keep the garden self-sustaining. We will be composting as much as we can, removing waste and returning it to the ground."

Over the past two years the Trust has received over £130,000 in grants in order to continue maintaining areas of Cowbridge for the benefit of the community, and gardening expert Richard Browning says that they will continue to apply in order to achieve their targets.

"We have also applied for an Environment Wales grant to give the pond an island-like structure in the middle for introducing water plants.

"That will take place in the autumn as we won't have to do much watering, making it even more environmentally friendly," he explained.

Chair of the gardens sub-committee, Linda Osborn, stressed that the council had been co-operative, stating: "They are just strapped for cash. They still do the large jobs that we can't afford, like cutting dead trees away."

The work was best summed up by Richard Browning, who stated: "We get great pleasure from this. It's good to be working together with people I didn't know before, or people I did know and had lost contact with. It feels like we're giving something back to the community."

And Peter Jones insisted that they will continue their work as this was part of a "continuing process", and that there are more projects in the pipeline going forward.

He added: "We will continue to expand our interest throughout Cowbridge and I can't see why we can't have a contribution in benefiting Cowbridge."

If you would like to lend a hand and get involved, go along to the Old Hall Gardens on Thursday mornings from 9.30pm-12.30pm. All volunteers are welcome.

All tools are provided, but it is recommended that you wear suitable clothes and footwear.

"As well as getting in touch with the community, it's educational!" added Mr Jones.

LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

Max and Caryl in concert

THE spectacular line-up for the National Eisteddfod fundraising concert on May 26 at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, has become a real family affair.

Max Boyce, whose granddaughter attends Ysgol Pen-Y-Garth, Penarth, will headline the show and will be joined by fellow Welsh star Caryl Parry Jones, singer, songwriter, actor, scriptwriter and Children's Poet for Wales in 2007/8.

Joining Max and Caryl will be Caryl's two talented daughters, Miriam and Greta Isaac. Both Miriam and Greta were educated at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Barry with Miriam being part of the very first intake to the school.

On leaving Bro Morganwg, Miriam headed for Los Angeles, where she graduated from the Musicians Institute, Hollywood.

Her sister, Greta (16) is already making her musical mark and performed at last year's Swn Festival in Cardiff.

Mother Caryl and daughter Miriam are active members of the '4o5's' a popular close harmony group, but this concert will mark a big first when they are joined by daughter Greta to perform for the first time tobether in public.

The concert, which will be through the medium of English, is at 7.30pm on Saturday, May 26 in the Paget Rooms, Penarth. Tickets at £25 (£20 concessions) are available from Foxy's Deli and the Windsor Bookshop in Penarth, and are selling fast.

Sailing hopeful returns home to rally support

ONE of the country's top medal hopefuls for this summer's Olympic Games in London, sailor Hannah Mills, will be taking time out of her busy training schedule to head home to Cardiff where she hopes to meet local people to fly the flag for British sailing.

The visit is part of a wider celebration of Volvo's heritage and backing for British sailing – the country's top performing sport at three out of the last four Olympic Games.

Hannah aims to motivate the local community to support British sailing with a special event at Volvo Cars Cardiff on May 4, when she will talk about her career and her aspirations for this summer to guests at the dealership in Penarth Road from 6pm.

Would-be attendees need to contact the dealership first as admission will be only to those on the guest list. They can be contacted on 029 20727474 (ext. 265).

Hannah, who will compete this summer with teammate Saskia Clark in the 470 Match Class, will also be visiting her former school, Howell's School, Llandaff, where she will talk to the youngsters.

She said: "I'm really excited to be visiting and inspiring youngsters at my old school, the local community and guests at Volvo Cars Cardiff.

"Hopefully, throughout the tour we can encourage everyone to become armchair sailing experts themselves!"

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Time for Change at the Vale Council

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A Labour run Vale Council will:

Invest in resurfacing and repairing our roads especially in urban areas

Introduce 'Grime Fighters' with the authority to tackle the dog mess, graffiti and fly-tipping

Reintroduce Traffic Wardens to deal with parking and traffic problems in our Towns

LABOUR will SCRAP the Local Development Plan and consult to produce a sustainable alternative

Vote Labour

A Labour run Vale Council will:

Introduce a Council Tax Discount for those over 70 years of age, who are not receiving benefits

Introduce a Youth Mayor & Youth Cabinet, giving young people a say on the services they require

Reinstate a Mobile Library Service for those unable to go to Libraries

A Labour run Vale Council will:

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Cynigion arbennig yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol

GYDA thri mis a hanner i fynd cyn cychwyn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, cofiwch am ein cynigion tocynnau arbennig eleni ar gyfer unrhyw un sy'n dod draw i'r Brifwyl.

Gellir prynu tocynnau Maes am bris gostyngol tan Gorffennaf 1 – ac mae'n ostyngiad o dros 10 per cent ar bris tocyn oedolyn. Mae'r rhain ar gael drwy ffonio'r linell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800 neu drwy fynd i'r wefan – www.eisteddfod.org.uk

Os ydych yn bwriadu dod i'r Maes am fwy na deuddydd eleni, beth am gymryd mantais o'r cynllun tridiau ar y Maes am bris deuddydd? Mae hwn yn gynllun newydd ar gyfer eleni, a'r bwriad yw cynnig gostuyngiad i bobl sy'n prynu nifer o docynnau Maes.

Prynwch docynnau ar gyfer deuddydd i'r Maes ac fe gewch fynediad am ddim i'r Maes ar ddiwrnod arall o'ch dewis. Felly, os ydych chi'n prynu dau docyn oedolyn a dau docyn plentyn dan 12 i'r Maes ar gyfer unrhyw ddau ddiwrnod, gallwch archebu hyd at ddau docyn oedolyn a dau docyn plentyn dan 12 ar gyfer unrhyw ddiwrnod arall yn rhad ac am ddim, sy'n arbediad o £44.

Rydym yn ymwybodol iawn ein bod mewn cyfnod o gyni economaidd a bod arian hamdden Eisteddfodwyr, fel pawb arall, yn brin ar hyn o bryd, ond drwy siarad gydag ymwelwyr o bob oed, rydym hefyd yn gwybod bod pobl yn awyddus i ddod i'r Eisteddfod ac i dreulio nifer o ddyddiau ar y Maes.

Gobeithio y bydd y cynnig hwn yn fodd iddyn nhw wneud hyn, a dod atom i fwynhau yr Eisteddfod ym Mro Morgannwg.

Cofiwch hefyd am ein Tocyn Wythnos ar gyfer y rheini ohonoch sy'n gobeithio treulio'r wythnos gyfan yn crwydro Maes yr Eisteddfod. Gallwch arbed hyd at 34% ar bris tocyn oedolyn am yr wythnos drwy brynu tocyn wythnos – arbediad o £46 yn ariannol – felly dyma fargen arbennig i unrhyw un sy'n mwynhau ymweld â'r Maes yn ddyddiol.

Fel enghraifft, byddai dau oedolyn a dau blentyn rhwng 12-18 yn arbed £140 (bron i 44 per cent) ar bris tocynnau Maes ar gyfer yr wythnos gyfan drwy brynu tocyn wythnos i'r Eisteddfod.

Am fanylion am y rhain i gyd ewch i: www.eisteddfod.org.uk neu ffoniwch y linell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800.

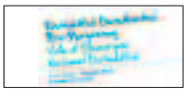
Dilyn Dilys

MAE Dilys, y fan gamper fach sgleiniog goch yn ymweld â'r Fro ddydd Iau Ebrill 26, i ddathlu mai 100 o ddyddiau'n unig sydd i fynd cyn cychwyn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg.

Bydd Dilys yn ymweld â Llanilltud Fawr ddechrau'r dydd cyn symud ymlaen i'r Barri ac yna'n treulio'r prynhawn yn Y Bontfaen, wrth i dîm yr Eisteddfod ddosbarthu gwybodaeth am yr Eisteddfod a gynhelir yn lleol mewn ychydig dros dri mis.

Meddai Elfed Roberts: "Diolch i bawb a ddaeth i gefnogi ymweliad Dilys â'r Fro ddiwedd Chwefror, a rydym i gyd yn edrych ymlaen i Dilys gael dychwelyd i'r ardal.

"Mae'r fan gamper wedi bod yn ffordd ardderchog o godi proffil yr Eisteddfod yn lleol a chreu ymdeimlad o w^yl. Gobeithio y bydd trigolion yr ardal yn galw draw i ddweud



'Helo' y tro 'ma hefyd.

"Bydd manylion llawn y daith ar ein gwefan, www.eisteddfod.org.uk

Am ragor o wybodaeth am Dilys ei hun, ewch i: www.fan-goch.co.uk.

Special ticket offers for National Eisteddfod

WITH a little over three-and-a-half months to go before the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, remember that we've got a number of special offers on tickets for anyone planning to come to this year's festival!

Maes tickets are available at a discounted price until July 1 – and it's over 10 per cent discount on an adult ticket price. These are available by ringing the ticketline on 0845 4090 800 or by going online: *www.eisteddfod.org.uk*

If you're thinking of coming to Maes for more than two days this year, why not take advantage of our three days for the price of two offer? It's a new scheme for 2012.

Buy Maes tickets for two days, and enjoy free entry to the site on a third day of your choice. So, if you buy two adult tickets and two tickets for children under 12 to the Maes for any two days, you'll be able to order tickets for up to two adults and two children under 12 for any other day – a saving of £44.

Like everyone else, we are very aware of the difficult economic climate, and that Eisteddfodwyr have less money to spend on leisure activities, and we are also aware, by speaking to festival-goers of all ages, that people are keen to come to the Eisteddfod and spend a number of days on the Maes.

We hope that this offer will help, and that many more will be able to join us at the Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan.

If you're planning on joining us for the whole week, our season ticket is the ticket for you. Save up to 34 per cent on the price of an adult ticket for the week by buying a season ticket – a saving of £46 – a bargain for anyone who enjoys coming to the Eisteddfod every day.

Two adults with two children aged 12-18 would save £140 (almost 44 per cent) on the price of Maes tickets for the week by buying season tickets.

For details about all these go to: www.eisteddfod.org.uk or ring the ticketline on 0845 4090 800.

Dilyn Dilys

DILYS, the little shiny red camper van, is returning to the Vale to mark 100 days to go before the start of the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod.

Dilys will visit Llantwit Major, before moving on to Barry, and then spending the afternoon in Cowbridge, as the Eisteddfod team distributes information on the event.

Elfed Roberts says: "Thanks to everyone who came over to see Dilys at the end of February, and we're all looking forward to seeing Dilys again very soon.

"The camper van has been a great way of raising the Eisteddfod's profile locally, and of creating a festival feeling.

"We hope that people will come over again to say 'Hello' this time, as well.

"Details of Dilys' activities will be published online at: www.eisteddfod.org.uk

For more information on Dilys, go to: www.fan-goch.co.uk

GWENLLÏAN CARR

Busy opening to a new year

NEWS FROM THE BARRY WI

THE usual meetings took place through January to April, including the sewing circle, keep fit, social afternoon and garden club.

The garden club went to Wenvoe Garden Centre for a coffee morning. On one of the social afternoons, we had an hypnotherapist who gave a talk and then demonstrated a relaxation lesson.

A tape was played, we were told to close our eyes and relax and then were spoken to softly. All the ladies enjoyed this as they felt really relaxed at the end.

The evening meetings started with January's visit from the rescue centre.

They brought with them a number of owls, explained about the centre and about the owls and what they did with them when rescued.

In February, the topic was 'Performing Poetry about Women.' Jan Price read poetry that she had written on various topics.

All proceeds would go to charity.

In March at the St David's Supper, Pam and Sandra put on a buffet for the ladies (which went down well), and June did a Welsh quiz.

The ladies were asked to dress a hat – anything to do with Wales. The winner was Jackie, whose hat was decorated with daffodils, Welsh flags and the WI logo.

April – This was the Link meeting, where we invite local WIs to attend. There were more than 80 ladies and the entertainment was the Ladies Oriana Choir from Cardiff. What wonderful voices.

They opened the meeting by joining us by singing 'Jerusalem' – you would have thought we were in the Royal Albert Hall!

The meeting closed with the Barry ladies serving tea, coffee and biscuits and the evening was a great success.

The next day (April 18) it was the GFWI half yearly meeting at the Memorial Hall.

The ladies of Barry were asked to serve the teas to visiting WIs from the Glamorgan area. There were around 480 ladies in attendance.

The speaker in the afternoon was Lowri Morgan, who showed a video and discussed her walks in the jungle in Brazil and the snow in the Arctic.

In May, we have a resolutions meeting followed by fish and chips.

The resolution to be debated in the Royal Albert Hall London is 'Employ more Midwives' .

For further information about Barry WI meetings, telephone 01446 410139.

JC

THE TALE OF TELYNAU MORGANNWG...

AFTER many years making harps, attending eisteddfodau, exhibitions and general discussions with harp teachers and students, a thought came to my mind that it would be beneficial for harp students to meet collectively with harp teachers other than their own, to learn different techniques of playing, *writes T Merlin Maddock*.

Being a harp maker and not a harpist, I approached two friends of mine, Meinir Heulyn, then the principal harpist of the Orchestra of Welsh National, together with Gillian Green, peripatetic harp teacher for the Mid-Glamorgan Education Authority, with the view to holding a weekend course in harp playing techniques.

Having Tabernacle Chapel, Pontycymer, directly opposite my workshop (and with adequate parking), it appeared to be the ideal venue for an experimental harp-teaching weekend.

After many meetings, we decided to hold this event during the spring half-term of March, 1982. As we had no idea of the number of students applying, Meinir coerced Valerie Aldrich-Smith, principal harpist of the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra to help out.

The weekend turned out to be a resounding success, with 30 harp students in attendance – so much so, we held a further course the following Easter weekend – with a surprising greatly increased attendance.

With the increased number of students attending the second course, together with the majority coming from the mid and south Glamorgan area, it was agreed to find a venue that would be large enough and more central to hold further courses.

The College of Music and Drama at Cardiff appeared to be the ideal venue. In 1984, the harp school was named Telynau Morgannwg (The Glamorgan Harp Guild) and transferred to Cardiff.

The official opening began with a recital by Edward Witsenburg on April 18, 1984, followed by a masterclass on April 21 at the Reardon-Smith Lecture Theatre, Cardiff.

Ever since those early days, courses, seminars, workshops and recitals by world famous harpists such as Nancy Allen and Marisa Robles have been organised by Telynau Morgannwg.

In 2002, Telynau Morgannwg celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Welsh College of Music and Drama with recitals given by Ieuan Jones, professor at the Royal College of Music, London, and Catrin Finch, formerly harpist to the Prince of Wales.

During the past 30 years, the organisation has out-grown the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Last Saturday (April 21) Telynau Morgannwg celebrated its 30th anniversary at its new venue – Theatre Soar, Merthyr Tudfil – with a record entry of 60 students; ages ranging from seven years to the mid 60s.

I was absolutely amazed by the enthusiasm and dedication of a Miss Chloe Roberts of Maes Glas, Flintshire, who had left home at 5am in order to be on time for the start of the course.

This in itself is proof enough of the high standard these courses have developed over the years.

During the lunch break, everyone present at the theatre was treated to a harp recital given by students of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, which included a performance of Salzedo's Dances and Parish Alvars' Introduction Cadenza and Rondo, performed by Hannah Stone, who is currently the royal harpist to Prince Charles.

An added bonus for yours truly was that I had the pleasure of coming face-to-face with a 36-string student harp I built way back during 1976, which I must say was in prime condition and not approaching its sell-by date (like myself!).

On leaving the venue after an unbelievable day of mixed emotions and pleasurable music, together with a sea of smiling faces, I received a kind of 'Eureka' moment when one of the parents said: "What a wonderful legacy you've left, Merlin".

It's a rewarding thought that Meinir and Gillian, together with the teachers over the years, have benefited many hundreds of students with these courses.

I sincerely wish to thank Meinir Heulyn and Gillian Green for their hard work and perseverance over the years in the development of our national instrument in Wales and, to coin a phrase that sums up their united efforts: 'large streams from little fountains flow, tall oaks from little acorns grow'.

My sincere thanks to all who have contributed in some way or another in furthering the development of Telynau Morgannwg and establishing it as an example to all other harp playing communities world-wide.

T Merlin Maddock MBE

Advice for carers

ANYONE caring for someone who has had a stroke, can talk to an advisor about support and services available in the area.

This session will take place on Thursday, May 3, at the Senior Health Shop, Age Concern, Barry, between 10am and 12 noon.

For further information, call 01446 732385.

Dog beach ban soon in force

The Vale's seasonal dog ban on beaches starts on May 1 and runs through to September 30.

Owners should be aware that it means dogs can't go on beaches at Southerndown, Llantwit Major, Cold Knap, Barry Island and Penarth.

It is an offence to bring a dog on any beach where the ban is enforced. If caught, a person can face a fine of up to £500.

Senior enforcement officer at the Vale Council, Denny White, added: "People should also be responsible owners and clear up after their dogs.

"Once dog mess is bagged and tied, please use any council bin to dispose of it, or take it home."

FoBB meeting

BARRY-based environmental group 'Friends of Barry Beaches' will be holding its next beach clean on Sunday, April 29, at Watch Tower Bay, The Knap, by the mini roundabout at 3pm.

WHAT'S ON - *in brief*

Coastal path

THE 870-mile Wales Coast Path will be opened on Saturday, May 5, by Environment minister John Griffiths AM at Cardiff Bay.

It will run from the Welsh border, in the north, to Chepstow in the south, and it will become the world's first continuous coastal path around a country.

The event will start at approximately 11am and will feature Aber Valley Male Voice Choir, the St Clare's School choir and Duo-Flex Sound of Steel.

Details of the organised walks can be found on the Ramblers Cymru website (www.ramblers.org.uk).

Village meeting

A PUBLIC meeting is being held on May 16 at 7.30pm in Lower Penarth Community Centre, Brockhill Way, Cosmeston, Penarth, to discuss the future of Cosmeston medieval village.

This Cabin is a hellish (but cleverly built) property!

ONE thing that watching lots of films does, is to lower your ability to be truly surprised...

After all, we know that in a romantic comedy, the couple will always end up together, in an action movie good will triumph no matter how unlikely, and in horror movies attractive teenagers are a magnet for psychopathic murderers and the majority are unlikely to see the end credits.

So when a a horror film comes along promising to offer something different then you ready your pinch of salt and give the filmmakers a chance. This is what is promised in *The Cabin In The Woods* where five friends (most notable Chris *Thor* Hemsworth) travel to a secluded cabin for a fun-filled weekend, not realising that horror will befall them - but not as you expect.

Comely teenagers? Check. Scary man warning you of dangers up the road? Check. The unmistakable sense of being in the wrong place at the wrong time? Check. So far, so predictable, but *The Cabin In The Woods* pays more than lip service to the notion of offering horror fans something different; the film is certainly a step above the majority of slasher fare that is lapped up on a scarily far too frequent basis.

The film is one of those best seen with as little prior knowledge as possible, so don't go any further unless you have seen the film - not even a cursory peek! Starting in a starchy, white collar office where two workers (Richard Jenkins and the always-superb Bradley Whitford) shoot the breeze, you realise that this isn't your common or garden horror film.

Instead, over the course of its 95 minutes the film dances a merry jig between out and out horror and clever deconstruction of the genre and its cliches.

So we get a muscular jock who is a sociology major, the permanently stoned character who is more alert than any of the group and so forth; writers Drew Goddard and Joss Whedon take a rusty bear trap to what you think is going to happen and play with it, to fit their own agenda.

The film's biggest selling point is its deviation from where you think it's going, but that isn't to say the pair don't at least obey some of the rules.

The cast get offed at regular intervals in bloodshed that falls more into the *Halloween* territory rather than the torture porn of the likes of the *Saw* franchise, but it's what takes place away from the teenagers' struggles that causes the most excitement.

Leaving you hanging on as information is drip fed through, the audience find themselves trying to discover just where the story is going - the answers are imaginative and throw things in a whole new light.

Goddard's direction is skilled, balancing the needs of the story with the lust for gore, and while the set-pieces don't exactly drip with invention they do at least serve the purpose of which they are required; while his cutting from one scenario to another is well-balanced, even if the conclusion does feel overtly reliant on computer-generated imagery.

The cast are all solid, playing their stereotypical characters with a pleasing twist, with Kristen Connolly and, notably, Fran Kranz standing out the most, while Whitford and Jenkins' easy chemistry almost makes you forget just what their role in all of this is.

While cine-literate fans will find *The Cabin In The Woods* hugely nourishing, there is a danger that horror fans weaned on the likes of *Hostel* will find its gleefully disparate take on the genre a little too outside the box – that it's trying to be too clever in a marketplace where the classics of yesteryear are remade with reckless abandon and to diminishing returns.

Yet, as a thrill ride that takes you and wraps you up for its running time, *The Cabin In The Woods* is hard to beat and offers plenty inside its four walls... and beyond!

VERDICT: An interesting piece of work that delivers both horror and a level of intelligence, as well as a few laughs, *The Cabin In The Woods* is not your regular scary movie.

A clever script from Drew Goddard and Joss Whedon parlays into a satisfying piece of work that is a cut above the majority of films in this genre and plays itself very cleverly indeed. *Recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:
The Evil Dead (1981),
Halloween (1978),
Drag Me To Hell (2009).

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

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NEW CHAIRMAN AT THE 41 CLUB HELM

***ABOVE: At the recent Vale of Glamorgan 41 club AGM, held in the new Basil's restaurant in Cowbridge, Kerry Veale (centre front row) from Llanmaes was unanimously elected chairman for 2012-13.* (PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK).**

Wild west glamour *as CAOS comes to town!*

ABOVE: The Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society (CAOS) brought a touch of wild west glamour last weekend to Llantwit Major. They performed the popular Broadway musical, Calamity Jane, at the comprehensive school, with local girl Joanne Lee Mallett in the title role, and Nick Martin as Wild Bill Hickock.

PHOTOS by **ANDY WICKS.**

Dion (aged 12) makes Wales Open golf final

Dion Thomas is preparing to play at the Celtic Manor Resort in August.

YOUNG Vale golfer Dion Thomas (12) has qualified for the final of the Principality Junior Wales Open to be played on the 2010 Course at the Celtic Manor Resort in August.

The RAF St Athan Golf Club junior member secured his place in the event after coming through at Radyr Golf Club on April 13.

HISTORY SOCIETY'S SPECIAL MEETING

COWBRIDGE and District Local History Society's final meeting of the season will be on Friday, May 4 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

The talk is entitled '*George T Clark of Talygan*' by Brian L James, president of Cowbridge Records Society.

It will be preceded by a special general meeting of the society to discuss the proposed merger with the Cowbridge Records Society and the new constitution. All members are urged to attend.

NFU's mad hatters!

WITH Ladies Day at Ascot drawing near, it was a hectic time for the Vale NFU ladies at Penllyn Village Hall recently.

Carolyn Campbell of Top Notch Hat Hire brought hats, fascinators and accessories of all shapes and sizes in a variety of colours, so that the ladies were able to get their hats organised for the next big day or wedding. Fun was certainly had by all.

A vote of thanks was given by Mrs June Studley.

The next event for the ladies is a coach trip on May 15. **JS**

WHAT'S ON – *in brief*

Fun in store

TESCO Barry in Stirling Road, is holding a Wild 'n' Wet West day for its charity of the year, Cancer Research UK, on Friday, May 4 when 12 staff will be dressing up as cowboys /girls and offering customers a chance to throw water-filled sponges at them in stocks; see who is locked up in 'jail' and see volunteers sit in a bath of beans!

The Barry Male Choir will be in attendance. Events will be spread out over the day from 10am-6pm.

May Day fayre

THE popular May Day fayre is returning to the Cogan rec near Penarth Leisure centre on Monday, May 7 between 2pm and 5pm, with games, stalls, entertainment for all ages.

Admission to the fayre is free and there is a mini Olympics competition for ages11-14 and 15-18 year olds with trophies to be won.

Proceeds will go to Breast Cancer Care and the Fayre is being run as part of IgniteHope 2012, supported by several Penarth churches and other organisations.

Further information from Geraint on 07707539625 (stalls welcome - £5 per table).

Artist to speak to Art Society

ON May 3, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome west country artist Robin Gray, who is chairman of the International Society for Speleological Art and has had over 40 one-man shows.

He uses a number of media and is also a very interesting and amusing speaker. Please note this is a change from the original programme.

The society meets at the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge (7pm– 9pm) and visitors are welcome. For further details, see www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com.

Companion dog show

A COMPANION dog show held under KC Rules and regulations will be held on Saturday, May 12, at The Gathering Place, St Athan, in aid of the Vale of Glamorgan's Eisteddfod Fund.

Entries taken from 1pm, Ms Wendy Bebb will be judging at 2pm; cost £1 per class.

Pedigree Classes: a/v Puppy; a/v Sporting; a/v Non Sporting; a/v Open; Best in Show.

Novelty Classes: Golden Oldies (dog over seven years); best cross breed; handled by a lady; handled by a gent; prettiest bitch; most handsome dog; waggiest tail; dog in best condition; dog most like owner; dog judge would like to take home.

Further details from 01443 225399. Email dogshows4u@aol.com

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 2 May 2012

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- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

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Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 or over 55 with medical needs
- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor (with lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Manager

Rent £104.67 per week including service charges

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PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY (REFERENCE 10836368)

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- Parking

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- One-bedroom flat
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NEW

Marine Drive, Barry - £329,950
Elevated 3 double bedroom detached West End of Barry • Sea views • No chain 2 separate reception rooms • Fitted kitchen Downstairs wc • Utility area • Bathroom Upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden Front garden with patio • Driveway & garage.

NEW

Ty Gambig, Nells Point, Barry Island Offers in the region of £159,950
Three bedroom ground floor apartment Partial sea views • Terrace • Allocated parking space • Garage • Security intercom system No chain • French doors from lounge/dining room onto terrace • Gas CH • Upvc DG.

NEW

Salisbury Road, Barry - £136,950
Well presented traditional bay fronted 2 bedroom mid terrace • West end of Barry Lounge through dining room • Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances • Modern bathroom, walk in double shower • South facing enclosed rear garden • Upvc DG & Gas CH

NEW

Llys y Coed, Woodlands Rise, Barry - £259,000
Well presented 4 bedroom detached • Situated in a cul de sac • West End of Barry • Lounge through to dining room • Generous size conservatory • Kitchen/Breakfast room Downstairs wc • Enclosed rear garden

NEW

Marine Drive, Barry - £359,950
Executive 4 bedroom detached • Cul de sac location • 3 reception rooms • Kitchen/ breakfast room • Utility room and downstairs wc • Ensuite to master bedroom • Enclosed rear garden • Detached double garage Driveway suitable for 3/4 vehicles

NEW

Y Cerigos, The Knap, Barry - £249,950
Modern executive two double bedroom first floor apartment • set within a gated community West end of Barry • Open plan in style Modern kitchen with integrated appliances Ensuite shower room and family bathroom Decked balcony • 2 allocated parking spaces

NEW

Glan Hafren, The Knap, Barry - £117,000
Well presented 1 double bedroom ground floor apartment • West End of Barry • Panoramic sea views • Private entrance • Lounge/diner with patio doors opening onto garden • Modern fitted kitchen • White bathroom suite • Upvc DG and under floor heating • Garage

NEW

St Osyth Court, Barry - £139,995
2 double bedroom detached bungalow • West End of Barry • Would benefit from modernisation • Lounge with access to patio Kitchen with built-in oven and inset hob Bathroom with separate wc • Built in wardrobes • Upvc DG & Gas CG • Private patio

Orchard Crescent, Dinas Powys - £289,500
4 bedroom semi detached • cul de sac location Two reception rooms • Modern kitchen/ breakfast room • Bathroom & shower room Downstairs wc • Upvc DG & Gas CH • Good size rear garden • Off road parking • garage (presently converted) • no chain

The Grove, Barry - £260,000
Traditional 5 bedroom end terrace family home Situated on the edge of Romilly Park • Some original features • 3 reception rooms • Kitchen • Downstairs shower room • First floor bathroom • Upvc DG • Gas CH • Low maintenance rear garden • Single garage to rear

REDUCED

Wenvoe Terrace, Barry - £139,950
3 bedroom end terrace property with views across Barry and Bristol Channel • Situated in the West End of Barry • Lounge through dining room • Fitted kitchen with built in cooker • First floor family bathroom • Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden

REDUCED

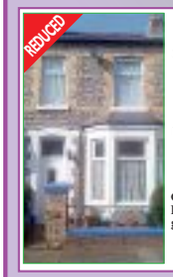
Woodlands Road, Barry - £122,950
Traditional 3 bedroom terrace • Property would benefit from some modernisation • 3 reception rooms • Modern fitted kitchen • Downstairs wc and first floor bathroom • Majority Upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed garden • Garage with rear lane access • No chain

Y Cerigos The Knap, Barry - £299,950
Modern executive 3 double bedroom first floor apartment • Set in a gated community • Open plan lounge/dining room/kitchen • Modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances • 2 ensuites and family bathroom • Heathing/air con system • 2 decked balconies • Allocated parking • No chain

Rheidol Drive, Cwm Talwg, Barry - £234,950
Well presented 3 bedroom detached bungalow • 20' 10" lounge/dining room • Fitted kitchen • Bathroom and separate additional wc • Gas CH • Upvc DG • Enclosed rear garden • Driveway for 3 vehicles • Garage

Porth y Castell, Barry - £284,950
4 bedroom semi detached • West End of barry • 2 reception rooms • Fitted kitchen with walk-in pantry • 1st floor bathroom and separate shower room • 3 bedrooms with sea views • Upvc DG • Gas CH • Generous size rear garden • Driveway and garage • Ideal family home

REDUCED



Oban Street, Barry - £99,950
2 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace • 2 reception rooms • Kitchen with freestanding units and cooker to remain • Utility area, downstairs wc • 1st floor bathroom with freestanding bath and shower cubicle • Gas CH • Majority Upvc DG Enclosed rear courtyard garden • Ideal first time buy or buy to let investment

Murlande Way, Rhoose - £206,995
4 bedroom detached property • 3 reception rooms • Modern kitchen with some appliances to remain • Large conservatory • Downstairs w/c, family bathroom and ensuite • Shower room to master bedroom • Gas CH • Enclosed private rear garden • No chain

REDUCED

Lon Fferm Felin, Woodlands Rise, Barry - £226,950
4 Bedroom detached • Cul-de-sac • Lounge with double doors through to dining room • Modern kitchen/breakfast room • Utility room • Downstairs wc • Upvc DG & Gas CH • Gardens to front and rear• Double driveway

Llys Gwent, Barry - £214,950
Well presented four double bedroom detached Set in a cul-de-sac • East End of Barry • Lounge • Dining room • Kitchen/breakfast room • Utility room • Family bathroom, ensuite to master bedroom • Downstairs wc • Gardens to front and rear • Garage • No chain

Gwalch y Penwaig, Barry Island - £179,950
Well presented modern 3 bedroom mid link Lounge and conservatory • Modern extended kitchen • Downstairs wc, 2 ensuite shower rooms and family bathroom, Upvc DG & Gas CH • Enclosed landscaped rear Garden • Garage and Driveway

Woodham Park, Barry - £114,995
2 bedroom end of link property • Situated off Colcot Road • Lounge/Diner • Kitchen with built-in oven/inset hob • Sun lounge/lean to • Modern first floor bathroom • Enclosed rear garden • Double gates providing off road parking • main bus route to Barry and Cardiff

Woodlands Court, Barry - £104,950
2 double bedroom first floor apartment • Views across Gladstone park • Open plan lounge/kitchen/diner Fitted kitchen with integrated washer/dryer • Modern bathroom with P-shape bath with shower over • Built-in treble wardrobes to both bedrooms • Upvc DG • Gas CH via combi • Communal gardens & parking

REDUCED

Walston Close, Wenvoe - £279,950
Spacious 4 bedroom detached dormer bungalow • Generous size plot with front and rear gardens • 2 reception rooms and 2 bedroms • Fitted kitchen • Ground floor bathroom and first floor shower room • Upvc DG & Gas CH • Driveway for numerous vehicles

Walker Road, Barry - £136,950
4 bedroom semi detached property • Two reception rooms • kitchen • Downstairs shower room and 1st floor bathroom • Upvc DG & Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden • Potential for off road parking • Far reaching views across Barry Town towards Bristol Channel

Gerddi Margaret, The Waterfront, Barry - £157,950
Modern 3 bedroom semi detached property Cul de sac • Lounge • Kitchen/diner with built in cooker • Gas CH via combi • Upvc DG • Enclosed south facing rear garden • Driveway leading to single garage • No chain

Gelyn y Cler, Pencoedtre Village, Barry - £219,950
4 bedroom detached • 2 reception rooms • Conservatory • Kitchen/breakfast room • Utility room • Downstairs wc, family bathroom and ensuite • enclosed south facing rear garden • Double driveway for 2 vehicles • Garage

Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose - £114,995
3 bedroom semi detached property • 24ft 2 inch lounge through dining room • Kitchen with built in oven/inset hob • Conservatory • First floor shower room • Gas CH • Upvc DG • Front and rear gardens • Single garage and parking space • No chain

Clos y Wylan, Nells Point, Barry Island - £209,950
3 bedroom semi detached property with panoramic sea views • Lounge • Kitchen/breakfast room • Conservatory • Downstairs wc • Family bathroom and 2 ensuite shower rooms • Gas CH • Upvc DG • Enclosed rear garden • No chain

Caer Ffynnon, Barry - £254,950
Individually designed detached residence • Self contained unit ideal as annexe, or converted back to garage and storage • 2 fitted kitchens • 2 bathrooms • Front, side and rear gardens • off road parking for numerous vehicles • Within walking distance of the Knap

Blenheim Close, Highlight Park, Barry - £234,950
3 bedroom detached true bungalow • Lounge through dining room • Modern fitted kitchen and bathroom • Conservatory • Gas CH & Upvc DG • Enclosed mature gardens • Driveway and garage

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Family Notices

POWELL
Lavinia Mary

Peacefully, on April 18 at her home in Llantwit Major, Lavinia, beloved wife of the late Roddy, dearly loved mother of Jane, Mary and David, dear mother-in-law of Mike, Mark and Gill, much loved gran and great-gran.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday April 26, service 11am at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12.45pm.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

PRICE
Horace

Peacefully, on April 22, at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a short illness Horace, in his 93rd year, of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of the late Clare, dearly loved father of Anne-Marie, much loved grandfather (Gaby) of Rhian, Sian and Rhys, great-grandfather of Ethan, Phoebe, Martha and Poppy.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday May 4, service and cremation 1.15pm at the Coity Chapel, Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired may be sent to a childrens charity of your choice.

FREDERICK
Stan

Peacefully on April 16th, Stan, loving husband of Carol, much loved dad of Julie, Alison and Stuart, much loved Bampi and Great-Grandad, treasured brother of Carol, brother-in-law of Mike, father-in-law of Claire and Glen.

Funeral Service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, May 1st, 2012 at 11am.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

NEWBY
Eleanor Maureen

Peacefully, on April 16 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Maureen (Mo) of St Athan. Beloved wife of Leslie, dearly loved mother of Shaun and Nick, much loved by all her grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday April 27, service and cremation 3.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to St Athan First Responders, please make cheques payable to W James & Sons Charity Account, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

COPLEY
Richard

Suddenly on 14th April 2012, Richard, loving husband, father and grandfather, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral Service at St Mary Church on Monday, 30th April at 10.45am followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only.

REES
Isaac Owen

Peacefully, aged 99 years, at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry, with loving family beside him.

Owen was for 64 years devoted husband of the late Dilys, much loved father of Jim and Jennifer, and much loved father-in-law of Sue and David, adored taid and great-taid and a favourite uncle and great uncle.

Resting at A G Adams and Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his service at the Tabernacle Chapel, Holton Road, Barry on Friday, April 27th at 12.45pm, followed by interment at Porthkerry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to Ty Hafan, the Children's Hospice in Wales, or the RNLI.

CLOSE
Mary Maureen

Arnold, Michael, David and Jacqueline would like to thank relatives and friends who attended Maureen's funeral, gave £229 of donations and offered kindness and messages of sympathy at their sad loss.

Special thanks to doctors and nurses at Llandough Hospital for their dedicated care. The family are also grateful to Alan Pacey and the staff at A G Adams & Son Funeral Home, Barry, for their consideration and professionalism during this sad time.

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003
To whom it may concern.

We, **Barry Athletic Ltd** do hereby give notice that we have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a **Premises Licence** at **Paget Road, Barry Island, Barry** known as **Barry Athletic Club Ltd.**

The application is to vary the club premises certificate to allow the supply of alcohol amd regulated entertainment between the hours of 1200 and 2330 and to permit music and dancing on permitted occasions.

Any person wishing to make representations in respect of this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application - the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

AJ Oliver, Chairman
26th April, 2012

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'ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS LEARNED'

The winning team of Vale youngsters in Dubai.

Vale youngsters win prestigious football tournament in Dubai

PG10 COACHING junior football team from the Vale of Glamorgan, made up of pupils from years 7 and 8 at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morganwg, Cowbridge Secondary school and players from Dubai, have just returned from the Middle East where the team competed in a FIFA-regulated tournament – the 'Dubai international Super Cup', organised by Team Tours Direct.

The team competed against others from across the world from countries such as Africa, India, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and many more.

The team were the only one from the UK competing in the prestigious tournament and performed wonders by winning their respective age group, with Ysgol Bro Morgannwg pupil Rhys Beynon being named PG10 player of the tournament.

Bolton Wanderers FC Chairman Phil Gartside presented the team with their winning trophy.

The tournament was well supported with Argentinian legend Diego Maradona visiting, as well as former England internationals Trevor Sinclair and Carlton Palmer coaching junior teams from Dubai.

Peter Griffiths, head coach and manager of PG10 Coaching, said: "The tournament was a wonderful opportunity, not only for the players' football development, but it also provided the young people with essential life skills and the opportunity to learn about different cultures in a competitive and fun sporting environment.

"The players and I made new friends and waved the flag for Wales and the UK. To win the tournament is some achievement and will remain with the players for ever!"

For more information, contact: 07955 270870, or visit: www.pg10coaching.co.uk.

Amateur league Champions continue their winning streak

THE Major hosted second-placed Treforest at their Windmill Lane ground last week for their final home game of the season.

Having gone a goal down and losing their leading scorer and captain Lindsay early in the game to a knee injury, the Major went on to win 3-1 with goals from Lee Jones, substitute Aaron Vincent and a great looping shot from young Luke Dawes, who continues to impress. It put Llantwit 17 points clear and rightly confirmed their league champion status.

Then, on Saturday April 21, the Major travelled to Carnetown for their penultimate game of the season with four key players out through injury. The game got underway with both teams playing some good football and both keepers in action.

A clumsy tackle on Clement by the Carnetown central defender was punished by the referee who awarded a penalty. Leigh Pratt stepped up and placed his spot-kick straight down the middle, the keeper fortunately moving to his right, and the visitors took the lead on 25 minutes.

The Llantwit lone striker, Mortimore, then took a knock and had to be replaced; The agile Clement moving up front alone and the midfield being reshuffled with Dawes coming onto the left.

Both teams continued to play good football and Lansdown, in the Major goal, made two or three excellent saves. Pratt was instrumental in midfield, controlling the play and helping the Major retain possession and a 1-0 lead at half-time.

The second half continued as the first had finished with good interplay from both sides and chances at both ends.

Andy Shaw, back from injury, made several good runs down the left side and both Cleave and Clement were guilty of missing headers from close range when they were left unmarked.

The impressive Dawes was having an excellent game, turning the home defence inside out with his clever skills and great pace and putting in some good crosses.

The Major brought on Wayne Faux for James Rees and Jacob Constant replaced Colm Garrett in the back four. Keeper Lansdown made another great save, diving to his right and putting the ball out for a corner, which was subsequently cleared.

At the other end, Dawes continued to give the home defence a headache with his excellent footwork and pace and crossed with 10 minutes to go to find Clement in the clear, who scored a beauty.

The Major remain 17 points clear at the top with one game to go and have been beaten just once in the league this season.

Team: Tim Watts (manager), J Lansdown, A Shaw, A Vincent, N Cox, C Garrett, L Jones, D Cleave, J Rees, L Pratt, L Clement and J Mortimore. Subs: J Constant, W Faux, L Dawes.

This coming Saturday the Major play their final league fixture away at Trefelin BGC, kicking off at 2.30pm.

The club wish to thank the GEM and also their sponsors: Jaipur, Watts and Morgan, Keyline, Andy Cabs, BMC Digital, Eurgent and MPI Aviation, for their continued support.

PL

TOM WINS CLASSIC CUP

LLANHARAN'S Tom David had a weekend to remember.

On Saturday he won the classic Lady Dudley Cup at the Worcestershire Hunt Steeplechases on *Rosies Peacock,* and 24 hours later at Stratford took the John & Nigel Thorne Memorial Cup when landing the the UK Hunters' Steeplechase on Sheila Crow's *My Flora*.

Rosies Peacock is owned, trained and bred by Pembrokeshire's David Llewellyn, brother of dual-Grand National winning jockey Carl.

Rosies Peacock beat another Welsh horse, *Findlay's Find*, by a length, and was the first Welsh winner of the race since Peter Bowen's *Brunico* won in 1993.

Tom is the first Welshman to have ridden the winner of the race since Tim Bowen was successful on *Pride of Tullow* in 1987.

My Flora, a long odds-on favourite, won by nine lengths from *Armory House*.

WILLIAMS WINS BONVILSTON GRAND NATIONAL AGAIN

Nick Williams won his second Dunraven Windows Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National over three-and-a-half miles at rain-sodden Bonvilston last Saturday.

But unlike last year, when he won on Paul and Myfanwy Miles' *Findlay's Find*, he and his mount *Dear Villez*, a former inmate of champion trainer Paul Nicholls' yard, had fewer fences to negotiate as officials very wisely omitted two fences, and later three, owing to the rainsoaked ground on the approach to the obstacles.

The French-bred *Dear Villez*, owned and trained by Chloe Roddick, was made the even-money favourite and jumped the last of the 12 fences well ahead of the fast finishing *Gouranga Society*, whose rider Paul Sheard had notched-up his first winner when winning this race on *ItsOnlyMe* in 2006.

The official distance was 12 lengths, and the runner-up snatched second place by a length from *Little Miss Monty* (Emily Farr). *Young Albert* (Bradley Gibbs) still had some sort of a chance when falling two out and *Stonebriggs Merc* (Joseph Williams) finished fourth. The other three runners (*Charango Star*, *Tiermore* and *Tom Bach*) all came to grief.

Dear Villez was the second leg of a double for Williams, which had been initiated when Dr Simon Clarke's 11-year-old *Diddle 'Em*, always prominent, won the confined by eight lengths from *YetHolm* (John Norman).

The favourite *Molon Labe* (John Mathias) was leading approaching the second last fence only to fall.

16-year-old Charlotte Prichard brought her season's tally of wins to seven from just 15 rides when taking the hunt race on *West Bay* and the restricted on *Wilkinson*.

There was not much between David Davies' *West Bay* and Keith Prichard's *Prince Eleanor* (Nick Williams) when they jumped the last but the latter, the odds-on favourite, was clearly more tired and took a tumble.

The judge marked his card 'Finished Alone' but last year's winner *Celtic Boy* (Laura Grey), who had apparently been guided around the obstacle by a fence steward, and unknown to the judge, rode into the place reserved for the runner-up and the judge's result was later changed.

Wilkinson, owned and trained by former point-to-point rider Nick Tamplin, jumped the last upsides *No Reason Why* (Rachel Leyshon) and went on to win by just over a length. The nine-year-old will probably run next at the Tredegar Farmers' meeting on May 5.

Abergavenny's Chris West made it three wins on the bounce when winning the novice riders' race on his *Kilshanna*, backed from 5-1 to 5-2. *Kilshanna* had a length to spare over *New Little Bric*.

Biggest cheers of the day were for Bridgend builder Roger Willcox, who won the maiden race with his seven-year-old bay gelding *Traditional Bells*. Well ridden by Evan David (19), who rides out for David Brace, *Traditional Bells* who was completing the course for the first time this season – although he could be forgiven his previous race as he was unseated by a huntsman's horse; ran out a 25 lengths winner from *Misty Haze* (Byron Moorcraft) at odds of 10-1.

Mr Willcox admitted to backing his horse but said he didn't have as much on as he had the last time it ran. Backers of the odds-on favourite *Duke Of Croatia* (John Mathias) didn't have much of a run for their money as it came down at the third fence.

Considering the wet weather the crowd seemed a decent one and enthusiasts will now be looking forward to the Countryside Alliance (Wales) fixture here on June 4.

BRIAN LEE

Boxers are on 'course'

The above photo shows Micky Dixon, coach for Llantwit Major Boxing Club, with members of the Cardiff Council Youth Service Street Based Youth Team.

The Llantwit Major club are working in their gym with young people, aged 11-25, many attending a 10 week program which involves a boxing teen fit course where young people learn about muscles, fitness and how to use fitness equipment safety and correctly.

Many of the young young people involved have shown an interest in continuing with boxing after the program ends.

Llantwit Major Boxing Club members and clubs from South Wales will be participating in a boxing sparring night to be held in the Llantwit Major Rugby Club on Thursday, May 3. Admission £5 adults, £3 children and it starts at 8pm; please support your local club.

TM

The Cowbridge under-13s open try floodgates

COWBRIDGE under-13s completed the double against Pontyclun with a comprehensive demolition of their near neighbours by nine tries to one.

The visitors were quicker in all areas of the game and it came as no surprise when they opened the scoring with a well taken try by wing Seán Davies.

A second try soon followed when lock Otto Guwy forced his way over the line. A charge down by centre Joe Nott led to Sam John collecting the ball on the 22-yard line to score a third try.

Dan Bunney, who was in outstanding form throughout, scored tries four and five and Joe Nott scored the sixth on the stroke of half-time to leave Cowbridge leading by 36 points to nil.

At the start of the second half pressure from Pontyclun and a lack of discipline by Cowbridge had the visitors penned in their own half and the home side eventually scored, when Ollie Rampling charged over beneath the posts for their solitary try.

However, a second try from Seán Davies soon settled the Cowbridge nerves and further tries by Joe Nott and Dan Bunney completed an excellent performance by Cowbridge.

Prominent in the backs were Rhys Beynon, Osian John and Dewi Bennett, while Matthew Keating, Charlie Martin and Josh Evans were the pick of the forwards; Duncan Ace kicked four conversions.

ML

Barry Youth pips Dinas

BARRY Youth continued their winning run by besting their local rivals Dinas Powys in this keenly contested derby.

In conditions not favouring running rugby, the home side showed more grit and determination in all areas to edge the game 8-7.

Wing Tom Adams gave Barry the lead in the first half with a try that went unconverted, but Dinas stormed back with a try of their own to sneak into the lead as the conversion went over.

Fly-half Einan Scott held his nerve, however, as he stroked over a penalty to give his side the win their efforts deserved.

It was a particularly fine performance given that captain Luke O'Sullivan was called up by the 1st XV, and talented utility back Ethan Dix was with the 2nd XV.

KC

Latest point-to-point draws the crowds to Bonvilston on a day of thrills – and spills

THE point-to-point season is well under way and the latest venue for the horses and riders was at Bonvilson in the Vale last Saturday.

The weather was perfect for the meeting with clear skies and sunshine, but spectators wisely wrapped up to ward off the brisk wind.

As can be seen from GEM photographer Glyn Evans' vivid action shots, there were one or two fallers, although most of the races went off without any mishaps.

PHOTOGRAPHS
by **GLYN EVANS**

Other pictures are available from this event.

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Think of C4 and explosives spring to mind

Motoring with Tim Saunders

IT is, perhaps, a little optimistic to expect the Citroen C4 to deliver this type of performance, but the 2-litre HDi model tested packs a powerful 150bhp punch nevertheless.

In the week when Francis Maude MP advised everyone to stockpile fuel in jerry cans, and petrol stations closed as motorists panicked unduly, the economical Citroen C4 was an excellent vehicle to drive.

It returned well over 50mpg, much to the Chancellor's frustration. Many spectators questioned whether the run on the pumps was in fact engineered by our out of touch leaders.

What else does a cash-strapped Government do when it has a shortfall to meet at the end of the tax year?

The poor motorist is such an easy target. Some despicable garages saw fit to actually increase the cost of their fuel during this torrid time by as much as 15 pence a litre.

These operators have kept their artificially inflated prices, too. Needless to say, the need for efficient cars has never been greater.

To this end, I cannot fault the C4. According to Parkers, the car experts, it does have its faults, though: "*The quality of the interior is poor and it doesn't feel particularly well put together, while the over-assisted steering and vague (six-speed) gearbox mean it's not rewarding to drive.*"

I take issue with this statement, finding the interior well finished. It's a decent driver's car, which can be enjoyable at faster speeds and through the bends.

The C4's distinctive styling makes it stand out from Ford, Vauxhall and VW. Not dissimilar to the Peugeot 308 especially from the rear, to some it might be an acquired taste. The large chrome two chevron Citroen logo takes pride of place in the centre of the grille.

ABOVE: THE CITROEN C4

As soon as you sit in the driver's seat a homely feeling comes over you.

I've never felt this in a car before but put it down to the fact that the seats are positively sofa-like – they feel like your favourite seat at home, springier and bouncier than usual car seats and excellent for soaking up the bumps.

These suede and fabric seats are leather edged – added to which, the dashboard is interestingly crafted from more of a rubber than a plastic, which is often the case.

Lock the car and the wing mirrors automatically fold, a helpful feature if parking on a roadside preventing them from being knocked.

But this could be improved if they automatically folded when the boot was opened – without requiring the car to be locked – providing peace of mind for those unloading at the roadside. It has a capacious boot, too.

There's no traditional handbrake, instead a small switch.

Personally, I find this a little awkward: firstly, there's a delay in waiting for it to engage and secondly ,there's a hill brake that the driver has to put their faith in.

This is by no means peculiar to Citroen, but I remain unconvinced.

The dash's digital display takes a little getting used to simply because it is quite a bit different to other cars.

But it doesn't take long to realise where the fuel gauge is and you quickly feel at home.

The C4 certainly has a unique personality. Its indicators 'bleep' differently to most and there's a particularly futuristic noise emitted if a seat-belt is not strapped.

There is a useful blind spot alert on the wing mirrors similar to that found in a Volvo – a red light flashes on the wing mirrors.

All in all a strong driver's car offering an engaging driving experience and economical to boot.

New price range: £12,136 – £21,495.

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Max speed: 129mph.

0-62mph: 8.6 seconds.

Combined mpg: 56.5.

Tim Saunders would like to hear from any BMW X5 owners for their input into a project he is working on. Photos gratefully received.

You can reach Tim at www.testdrives.biz

Calling Park runners!

RUNNERS are invited to sign up now for this year's Parkwood Porthkerry Five on Sunday, May 13.

Set in the stunning scenery of Porthkerry Park in Barry, the five-mile multi terrain course challenges runners of all abilities to tackle fields, hills, roads, woodland and coastal paths.

The event, organised by Penarth and Dinas Runners, is sponsored by Parkwood Leisure based at 'Cardiff International Pool'.

Potential entrants are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible as the race is limited to 300 runners and the closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 9. Proceeds from the Porthkerry Five will be donated to Penarth & Dinas Runners chosen charities for 2012, CAVRA and Thrive (Cardiff).

There are many ways to enter the 2012 Parkwood Porthkerry Five. You can pick up an entry form in person from the reception area at Cardiff International Pool or from any the Vale of Glamorgan Council's leisure centres, you can email porthkerryfive@hotmail.co.uk, or call Andrew Palmer on 07803 356519.

Alternatively, you can enter online via www.runnersworld.co.uk or download an entry form at www.penarthanddinasrunners.org.uk

Penarth and Dinas Runners meet every Monday evening at 7pm at Penarth Leisure Centre during the winter months, and at the Ranger Station in Cosmeston during the summer.

Penarth & Dinas Runners are a small but enthusiastic group of runners of all abilities, and new runners are always welcome.

To find out more about Penarth & Dinas Runners log onto www.penarthanddinasrunners.org.uk.

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CYCLISTS STAGE A SPECTACLE IN BRIDGEND AND VALE ROAD RACE

HUNDREDS of cyclists provided a colourful spectacle as they snaked their way along the roads of Bridgend county borough and the Vale last Sunday evening.

The race, which started and ended in Corntown, also took in the Cowbridge and Llantwit Major areas.

As you can see from photographer Glyn Evans' record of the event, there were moments of high drama along the way.

To add a rather cruel twist, the organisers had arranged for the finishing line to be at the top of the hill in Corntown!

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail *ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk*
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Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

Century for Tim!

ABOVE:
Grand National Day was a landmark day for Aberthin trainer Tim Vaughan. His horse, Saint Are, won the John Smiths Handicap Chase, notching up Tim's 100th winner!
(PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK)

Karate kids' fundraising boost

A G Adams Funeral Directors in Barry, have supported an appeal by a local karate dojo to raise funds to purchase special safety mats.

The funeral home purchased 10 of the red and blue safety mats, as well as providing a limousine for the day as a prize, to assist with fundraising. The lucky winner was taken to Bristol for a special evening, then collected the next day.

The Vale Karate Dojo has classes on each weekday except Thursday and Sunday and is situated in The Hub on Gladstone Road in Barry.

Rob and Cathy Copeland run the courses and cater for children aged four years through to adulthood, as well as children with special needs. In the picture with the children sitting on their new mats are Robert Fouracre and Alan Pacey from the funeral home, who were invited to a training session to see for themselves how important these mats are for the children's safety while at the dojo.

AT

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GEM sport

Eight wins on the trot for impressive Cowbridge RFC

COWBRIDGE extended their current unbeaten run to eight with a hard fought victory against Rhigos at the Athletic Field.

Rhigos kicked off on a pitch soggy on top with a strong cross-wind. This didn't concern Cowbridge who were soon on the scoreboard with a penalty in front of the posts by No 10 Carwyn Morgan.

The story of the half was one of penalties, the referee blowing up at every breakdown with no regard for advantage, which was frustrating for players of both sides.

However, Cowbridge were able to keep the pressure on Rhigos with some powerful forward play and after fifteen minutes the ball was skillfully spun across the back line for right wing Richie Howsen to sprint over in the corner from 30 metres.

Cowbridge repelled the sporadic Rhigos attacks well with some impressive defence from young left wing Matt Logsdon,but were invariably on the front foot without being able to convert the territory into points.

Cowbridge were soon on the on the attack from the second half kick off but a couple of missed penalties and some sloppy handling kept the scoreboard quiet.

Powerful running by flanker Luke Boys and some outstanding work by Logsdon almost paid off but Cowbridge had to wait until the 16th minute to increase the lead with a penalty by Morgan.

The Cowbridge defence was steadfast throughout when called upon against a big Rhigos pack who caused a few problems in the scrum in the second half.

Despite coming close several times Cowbridge had to wait until the final minute for their next score. Good ball along the backs saw a lovely run by Richie Howsen into the Rhigos 22 to offload to sub Rob Langdon who burst over the line with three Rhigos forwards hanging on to him for one of the most popular tries of the season; Morgan duly converted.

Final score Cowbridge 18 Rhigos 0.

Cowbridge weren't at their best against a strong Rhigos pack and a referee who was determined not to let the game flow. However, it was satisfying win following the defeat at Rhigos earlier in the season and Cowbridge were always on top in difficult conditions.

There are just two, maybe three, games left with Ogmore Vale at home on Saturday.

We can still catch Cefn Cribbwr in second place, but will need a bonus point and hope Cefn lose their remaining games, so come along and support the boys.

The presentation evening will follow in the clubhouse, along with a hog roast - full details of the gongs and other news to follow.

RV/RK

Cowbridge under-13A reach League Cup Final

ABOVE: The winning semi-final team - From LEFT to RIGHT: Deri Leach, Tom Williams, Henry Jones, Josh Petersen, David Bear, George Roberts, Tom Bainbridge-Glover, Will Smith, Sam Lee, and George Day. Ben John is at the front.

COWBRIDGE Town AFC under-13A have reached the final of the Vale of GlamorganLeague Cup, which will take place on Friday, April 27 at Jenner Park, Barry, at 6pm against Sully under-13A.

This is the first junior team from Cowbridge to reach a final, so very good luck to the boys, any support would be greatly appreciated.

Entrance fee to Jenner Park is 50p.

Mollie (16) continues to sail with confidence at Pwllheli

Photo courtesy of PAUL WYETH/RYA.

Cowbridge pupil Molly Frost crewing her 420 class dinghy at the recent RYA Volvo Youth Championships in Pwllheli, north Wales.

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School pupil Molly Frost (16) recently competed in the RYA Volvo Youth National Championships at the Pwllheli Sailing Club in north Wales, coming a respectable 14th out of 36 competitors.

Alongside partner Sarah Alton, they posted a net score of 80, putting them 14 points off of tenth placed Callum Airlee and Joseph Butterworth.

Although Molly finished seventh last year with Nia Jones when the event was held at Haling Island Sailing Club in Hampshire, a record entry of 350 youth dinghy racers and windsurfers entered the overall championships, and the field was the most experienced for some years with the 2012 Olympic Games taking place in Great Britain this summer.

The Cardiff Bay Yacht Club sailor will have been disappointed that her efforts weren't enough to earn her a place on the RYA Volvo Team GBR squad which will compete in the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland in July, but she certainly looks to have a bright future ahead of her as she looks to emulate fellow Welsh sailor Hannah Mills in representing her country at the Olympics.

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STUDENT'S OLYMPIC TORCH DREAM

CARDIFF and Vale College Sport student James French, from Barry, has been chosen to carry the Olympic torch through Barry town centre on May 26 this year.

James studies on the BTEC subsidiary diploma in sport at the college's Trowbridge site.

He is a keen surfer and a NaRS qualified lifeguard who belongs to Whitmore Bay Lifeguards; last year James was involved in saving four people at a local beach.

The flame will leave Cardiff Bay at 6.30am on Saturday, May 26 and proceed through Dinas Powys, Sully and Barry and then onwards to Caerphilly.

Cowbridge under-8s play in front of Blues' crowd!

ABOVE: Cowbridge under-8s.

AFTER some stunning recent performances in seeing off the likes of CRICC and Rhiwbina, it was with great excitement that Cowbridge under-8s travelled to the Cardiff City Stadium to play a tag match at half-time in the crunch Blues v Ospreys game against Llanishen.

As the big boys departed for their half time oranges, it was the turn of the under-8s to show their skills. No sooner had the game kicked off than the ferocious tagging of the green-and-whites, so good in recent weeks, set the tone with an early turnover.

With quick recycled ball, speedy Steffan Evans rounded the Llanishen defence for the opening score. The Cowbridge defence was proving impenetrable and further tries followed as first, the majestic Reuben Davies ghosted through the opposition for a wonderful touchdown followed by a smart try from the prolific Rhydian Williams.

The team now smelled blood and Llanishen could find no way through, ably led by Harry Treharne.

Rhydian, Steffan and Reuben each added further scores to notch their brace before a game Llanishen side went over for a consolation score late on. Final score Cowbridge 6 - Llanishen 1

A big thank you to the Blues for giving the lads an opportunity of a lifetime to play in front of over 8,000 spectators and TV cameras. I'm sure it's an experience they'll cherish for many years to come.

Squad: Lewys Robins, Tom Brennan, Archie Lloyd, Ben Hardy, Finlay Ball, Ethan Francis, Robbie Brown, Will Harris, Harry Treharne, Oliver Jones, Steffan Evans, Will Ryan, Rhydian Williams, Finlay Sullivan, Reuben Davies, Rhys Pritchard.

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